**METRO** / A19

### **Muntinlupa fishermen** to raise Japanese koi instead of bangus

**2BU!** / C4

### **Sisterhood of traveling flip flops:** How the Internet brings people with common passion together

**WORLD** / A22

### **Refugees head home** to south Lebanon as ceasefire holds on 2nd day

**BUSINESS** / B1

### **OFW remittances** surged to $1.1B in June; another 500,000 OFWs deployed

### No happy ending in tale of judge and 3 dwarves

WITH LOTS OF HELP FROM HIS LITTLE FRIENDS

**By Armand N. Nocum**

THE HELP OF HIS dwarf friends Armand, Luis and Angel notwithstanding, former Judge Florentino Floro Jr. failed to convince the

NO HAPPY/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, August 16, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 249 P18 website: www.inq7.net

### ‘Heathrow terror made me a certified bag lady’

**By Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio**
*Contributor*

I WAS AT THE FLAT OF MY *BALAE* (MY SON'S mother-in-law) in Kensington, London, packing for home when all the networks—BBC, CNN, Fox and SkyNews—were broadcasting nonstop Scotland Yard's foiling of "a mass murder attempt of unbelievable magnitude" by some 20

HEATHROW/ A8

# Amnesty Int’l tells RP: Shame on you

## Killings traced to GMA’s state of emergency, war vs Reds

**By Norman Bordadora**

THE UNABATED KILLING OF leftist activists constitutes a pattern of political executions that should be a source of “deep embarrassment” to the Philippine government, according to Amnesty International (AI).

In a 51-page report released yesterday, the London-based human rights group said the threat of more such murders had intensified this year along with President Macapagal-Arroyo’s declaration of a state of emergency in February, the arrest and threatened arrest of militant party-list lawmakers, and the administration’s all-out war against communist insurgents.

The group raised concerns about “credible reports” that security forces were involved in the killings, or at least tolerated or had knowledge of them.

AI documented a steep increase in the incidence of extrajudicial killings this year, recording 51 cases in the first semester. It pointed out there were 66 such killings in the entire 2005.

“No one deserves to die for their political affiliation. It should be a deep embarrassment to the government that people in the Philippines cannot freely exercise their rights of political expression and as-

AMNESTY/ A8

DELFIN MALLARI JR. 'INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

**THE ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN** for the all-out war against the communist New People’s Army ordered by President Arroyo starts with winning the hearts and minds of villagers, these ones in Lopez, Quezon province. A military officer who presides over the meeting at the Veronica Elementary School says, “We are here to protect you from the NPA. Help us to wipe out the enemy.”

## Battle for hearts, minds hurts kids

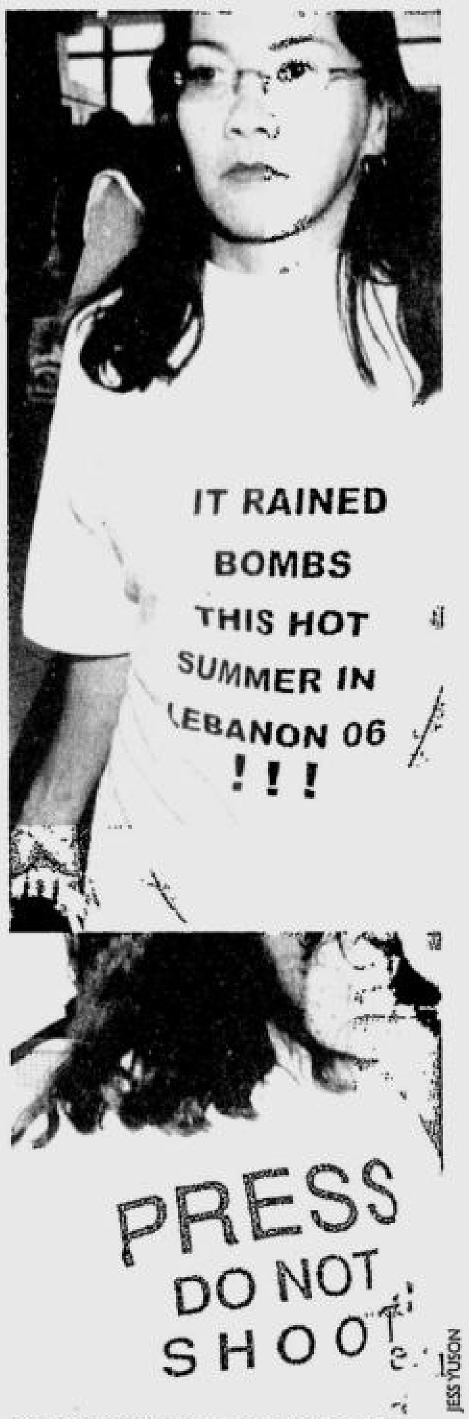
**By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

LOPEZ, QUEZON—THE TWO SISTERS, Angela, 8, and Angeline de Mesa, 3, lay on the wooden floor of the schoolhouse, half asleep and soaking wet. The sight of them huddled in the corridor made one wonder how much more physical punishment their frail bodies could take.

The sisters are among the innocent people adversely affected by a seemingly endless war in the countryside that has killed tens of thousands of Filipinos over nearly four decades.

Angela and Angeline had been taken along by their parents on a hike through mountain trails in heavy rain so the family could be present at a meeting called by the Army to win public support for its

BATTLE/ A11


IT RAINED BOMBS THIS HOT SUMMER IN LEBANON 06 !!!
PRESS DO NOT SHOOT

JESS YUSON

**THE MESSAGE** wears well front and back (above and below) as the homecoming outfit of OFW Sante Caubang, one of 450 arrivals from Lebanon on Tuesday. She bought the T-shirt for only $15 in Lebanon.

## House allies nix 7 boxes of evidence

**By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza**

ADMINISTRATION ALLIES IN THE House of Representatives yesterday thwarted a bid by the opposition to present evidence in its attempt to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo for alleged high crimes, saying the move was premature.

Voting 47-18, the House committee on justice struck down in a nationally televised proceeding the motion by Rep. Roilo Golez seeking to discuss and vote separately on each of the impeachment charges against the President.

For almost two hours before the vote, the House minority, which last year botched a similar effort to unseat Ms Arroyo, attempted to use every procedural means to bring up the “ultimate facts” that purportedly supported the four grounds for ousting the President.

HOUSE/ A7

## More RP kids dropping out of school, says ADB

**By Doris C. Dumlao**
*Business*

MORE AND MORE FILIPINO CHILDREN are dropping out of school, putting at risk the quest of the Philippines to become a global outsourcing hub, the Asian Development Bank said Monday.

More Filipino children are also failing to get vaccines during their infancy, the bank said at the media launch of the report, ADB Key Indicators 2006, which focused on health and education.

ADB chief economist Ifzal Ali said many countries in the Asia Pacific region would not meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets for universal primary enrollment and a two-thirds reduction in child mortality unless governments could rapidly intensify spending for the poor.

“To sustain Asia’s success in reducing poverty, governments must improve education opportunities for the poor, as this is the key driver of movements out of chronic poverty,” Ali said.

While education is the surest way to climb the socioeconomic ladder, health-related problems can push entire families into poverty, he said.

In the case of the Philippines, the most worrisome human development indicators are basic education completion and

MORE/ A10

EDWIN BACASMAS

**CHILDREN** in the shadow of Mayon volcano relocated to an evacuation center are also at risk of dropping out of school as early as the elementary level due to meager funds and poor health.

## Guimaras declares state of calamity

**By Norman Bordadora**
*in Manila*
**Nestor Burgos Jr. and Carla P. Gomez**
*Inquirer Visayas*

PREVAILING WIND AND OCEAN CURrents are preventing the oil slick off Guimaras Island from reaching the world-famous beaches of Boracay despite the huge volume of bunker oil leaking from a sunken oil tanker, the weather bureau said yesterday.

The provincial government of

GUIMARAS/ A8

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**WITH THE BEST OF 'EM:** One of the few women welders hired in the highly skilled and competitive world of shipbuilding, Candelaria Capampangan works for FBMA Inc.

## Meet Criselda and Candelaria: They build world-class ships

**By Tina Arceo-Dumlao**

BALAMBAN, CEBU—CRISELDA GARCIA AND Candelaria Capampangan are showing that they can weld like the best of the men and that women have what it takes to survive in the competitive world of shipbuilding.

Garcia, 32, was one of the first women taken in by FBMA Marine Inc. when the specialty shipbuilder was set up by the Aboitiz group of companies in 1996.

The mother of two has worked on every ship that the company has constructed based on the specifications provided by buyers overseas, starting with a 45-m tricat. Built in 1997, the fast ferry now plies the Hong Kong-Macau route at 50 knots or 100 km an hour.

Today, Garcia is the only woman among four team leaders in the FBMA metal works depart-

MEET/ A8

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the western sections. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/15/06 SOURCE PAGASA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Partly Cloudy | **Iloilo/Bacolod** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Baguio** | Cloudy with Rains | **Roxas** | Rains |
| **Tuguegarao** | Cloudy with Rains | **Cebu** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Laoag** | Cloudy with Rains | **Tacloban** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Clark Zone** | Cloudy with Rains | **Gen. Santos** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Tagaytay** | Partly Cloudy | **Zamboanga** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Legazpi** | Partly Cloudy | **Cagayan de Oro** | Partly Cloudy |
| **Calapan** | Rains | **Davao** | Partly Cloudy |

# Gov't asks holdouts to flee

**By Christine O. Avendaño and Jerome Aning**

THE GOVERNMENT IS DEPLOYING teams in Lebanon to scout for more overseas Filipino workers to send home as only a few OFWs have shown up at the relocation center in Beirut on the second day of the ceasefire.

Malacañang and foreign affairs officials appealed anew to the OFWs to leave Lebanon as the situation remained fluid.

"It may take a while before normalcy can be restored and we urge our OFWs to stay at the evacuation centers and continue to wait for the chance to be repatriated or transported to safety," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"It is better to act on the side of caution rather than allow Filipinos to be caught in cyclical conflict," Bunye said in a statement.

Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. said the crisis team was now "going out aggressively" to get more OFWs out.

Conejos said the team was concentrating its efforts on areas of Southern Lebanon where access had been difficult before the ceasefire.

"We are organizing more roving and security search and rescue teams to proceed to the Southern Lebanon cities of Tyre and Sidon," he told reporters at a Palace briefing.

The team was also focusing its efforts on the Bekkah Valley, which was the target of many of the Israeli military air strikes over the past month.

## Empty relocation

**OUT OF LEBANON: Filipino-Lebanese youngsters Rafael Allcadi (left) and Diana Saab wave to the well wishers upon arrival at the Naia.** JESS YUSON

But since the ceasefire was declared last Monday, only 80 OFWs have shown up at the Church of the Miraculous Medal in Beirut to seek repatriation.

The 80 OFWs are now en route to the Syrian capital of Damascus, emptying once again the Beirut relocation site. The 80 OFWs are expected to return home today.

Meanwhile, 450 more OFWs from Lebanon arrived in Manila yesterday, bringing to more than 5,000 the number of Filipinos repatriated since the evacuation began on July 23.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), an inter-governmental body affiliated with the United Nations, was responsible for bringing home the latest batch. The group has brought home almost 3,000 OFWs compared to the 2,000 repatriated by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Some OFWs were openly regretting leaving Lebanon after learning en route that a ceasefire had been declared.

Noemi Ramirez, 29, said she had been working as a janitor in a Beirut tenement for the past four months. She described working conditions there as good.

"I should have stayed because I still have many debts to pay but I was afraid of the bombings," she said, adding that she hoped she would be allowed back.

Agripina Areniz of Muntinlupa said she wanted to return to work abroad as soon as possible.

"I have three kids to raise and my husband is just a jeepney driver. We'll starve if I don't have a job soon," said Areniz who went to Lebanon as a tourist in December 2005 and took up three jobs since.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said, however, that no redeployment of OFWs to Lebanon would take place "while the threat of conflict remained."

In the Senate, Sen. Joker Arroyo asked why Malacañang was "stampeding" Congress into approving a P500 million repatriation fund for Filipino workers in Lebanon when it was the IOM which shouldered most of the cost of repatriating the more that 5,000 OFW evacuees.

Arroyo said the Senate should re-examine the request for the standby fund, which the House of Representatives approved last Monday.

Arroyo said data from the IOM, showed that 62 percent of the 5,447 Filipino evacuees were transported by bus from Beirut to Damascus and airlifted to Manila on commercial or chartered flights paid for by IOM.

He said this was confirmed by data from the Philippine embassy in Beirut which showed that as of Aug. 14, of the 5,447 evacuees, 3,867 were transported by bus to Damascus by IOM and only 1,760 were handled by the embassy.

"The long and short of this tragic episode is that IOM without any fanfare has spent a lot and handled more evacuees than our government," Arroyo said. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

# 'Greening' of RP highways under way

**By Norman Bordadora**

CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS AND BUSINESS ORganizations have lent their support to the "Green Philippine Highways" project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

A brainchild of Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, the greening project runs through 2,500-km highways—from the top of Luzon to the tip of Mindanao.

Already, the groups have planted 500,000 seedlings and saplings on the highways, including the heavily polluted Edsa in Metro Manila.

A nationwide tree-planting program is slated on Aug. 25.

"We believe that environmental stewardship is not the exclusive domain of the DENR, rather it is a responsibility shared by all members of the society," Reyes said.

Aside from making the country's highways aesthetically pleasing for motorists and commuters, the project aims to reduce air pollution.

According to the DENR, 70 percent of air pollution is caused by motor vehicle emission.

"At the very least, 50 million trees have to be planted all over the country to improve the quality of air, basing the figure on the total number of motor vehicles registered in the country," Reyes said.

He added that more trees would be planted around the same time next year.

"We will be planting trees endemic to each area," Reyes said, not wishing to disturb the biodiversity in each location.

The areas to be covered are the 2,176-km Pan Philippine Highway that stretches from Laoag City to Cagayan de Oro City and Davao City; the 439-km Manila North Road passing through La Union to Bulacan; and the 824-km West Nautical Highway stretching from Batangas City through Mindoro, Aklan and Negros Oriental to Zamboanga Sibugay.

Among the businessmen who expressed support for the greening project are Fernando Lu of the Philippine Wood Producers Association, Jose Leviste of Mirant Philippines, Jesus Arranza of the Federation of Philippine Industries, Edgar Chua of Shell Philippines, and Francis Chua of the Federation of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc.

# *Court-martial for 2 officers upheld by SC*

**By Armand N. Nocum**

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY denied a joint petition from retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan asking the high court to stop the Armed Forces from conducting pre-trial and court-martial proceedings against them on charges that they allegedly disobeyed orders from President Macapagal-Arroyo not to appear in Senate hearings.

In its decision, the SC upheld the President's authority over military officials as the Commander in Chief even as it said the whole issue could have been avoided if Gudani and Balutan had simply been allowed to attend the Senate hearings into alleged cheating in the 2004 elections.

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Dante Tinga, the SC en banc held that the President has the constitutional authority to stop the two officers from attending the Senate hearing by virtue of her power as Commander in Chief, and that as a consequence a military officer who defies such an injunction was liable under military justice.

"These values of obedience and deference expected of military officers are content-neutral, beyond the sway of the officers' own sense of what is prudent or rash, or more elementally, of right or wrong," the high court said.

"A self-righteous military invites itself as the scoundrel's activist solution to the ills of participatory democracy," the SC said.

But the SC said that the two officers could have been allowed to testify before the Senate without having to defy their Commander in Chief and superior officers.

"And if emphasis be needed, if the courts so rule, the duty falls on the shoulder of the President, as Commander in Chief, to authorize the appearance of military officers before Congress," it said.

The AFP initiated court-martial proceedings against Gudani and Balutan for allegedly disobeying a direct order from the President not to appear and testify at the Senate hearing probing the "Hello Garci" tapes implicating the President in a conspiracy to rig the elections.

Gudani was the First Marine Brigade Commander in 2003 who headed the Joint Task Force Ranao charged with maintaining peace and order during the May 2004 elections in the two Lanao provinces.

Balutan was one of the Marine battalion commanders directly under Gudani's command.

Gudani testified before the Senate committee on national defense and security that an informant had told him that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo had twice flown to Mindanao in a private helicopter two days before the elections to deliver boxes containing P500 million.

He also confirmed that he was the general mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tapes who was eventually relieved of his post on suspicion that he was working for the political opposition.

# DOJ to charge Romulo

**By Armand N. Nocum and Daxim L. Lucas**

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE YESTERDAY recommended the filing of criminal charges against former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo for violation of the Securities Regulations Code (SRC) when he occupied top posts at Equitable PCI Bank and two related firms, a "conflict of interest" situation.

In a 16-page resolution penned by Regional State Prosecutor Jaime L. Umpa, the DOJ said there was "probable cause" to indict Romulo for an offense that could put him behind bars for up to 21 years and cost him a fine of up to P5 million.

"To our mind, it has been proven that a violation of the Securities Regulation Code has been committed. This violation could be a crime. Failure to disclose the conflict of interest is a crime," the DOJ resolution said.

The DOJ ruled that Romulo "knowingly" violated the SRC's Implementing Rules and Regulations when he accepted his election as an independent EPCIB director despite knowing he was not eligible for the position since he was already the chair of Equitable Card Network Inc., an EPCIB subsidiary, as well as chair of Equicom Systems Managements Inc., a joint venture between the Equitable Group and Telus International.

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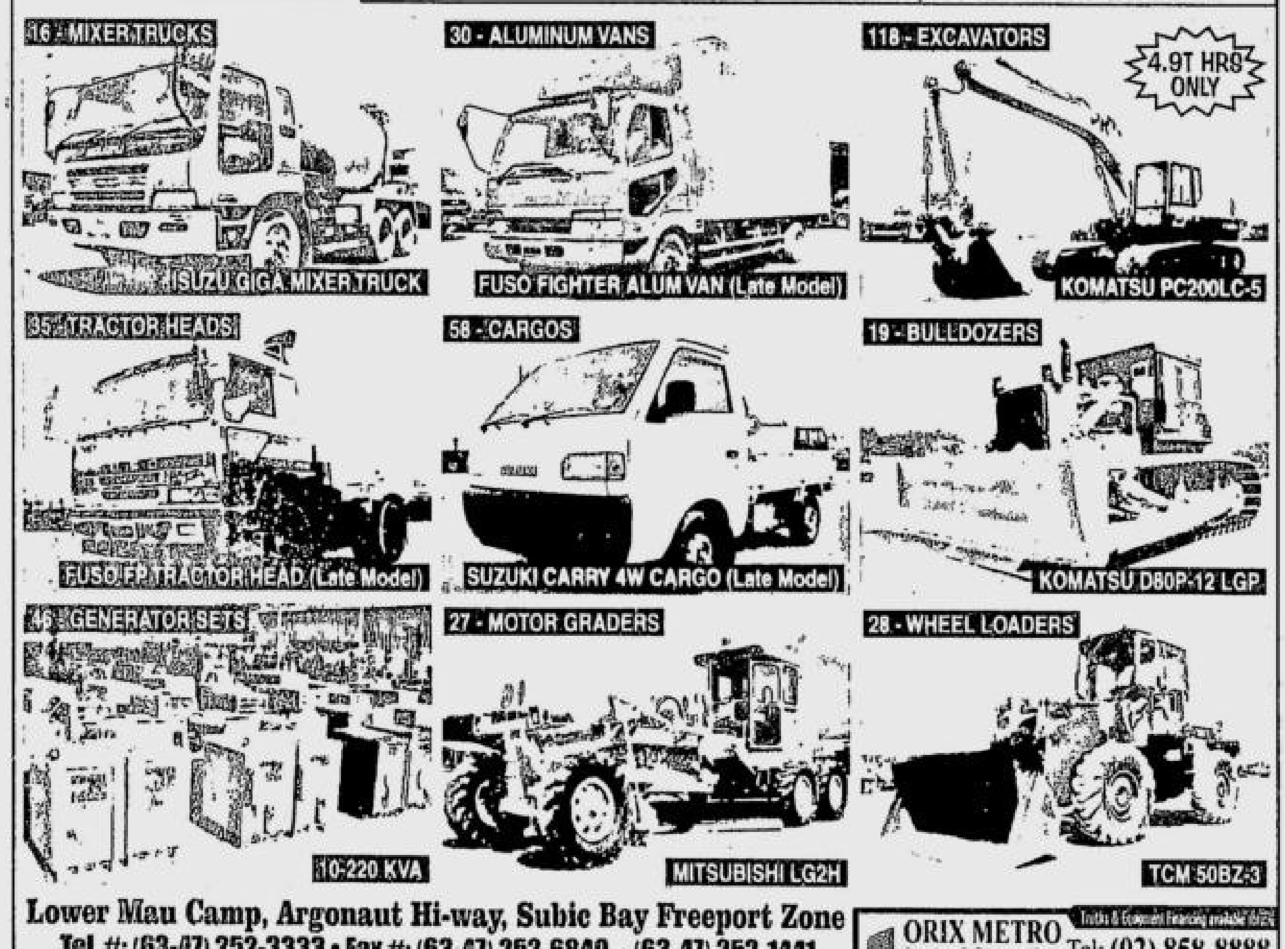

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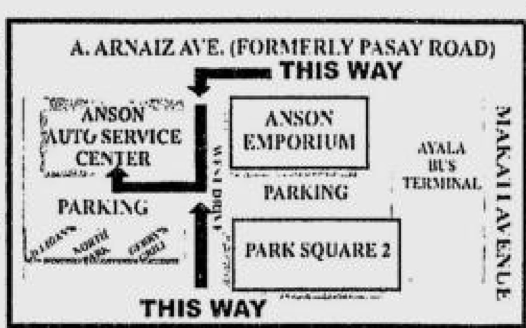

OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY

# 3 'mini-hospitals' from US to attend to Mayon evacuees

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THREE "MINI-HOSPITALS" DONATED by the United States will be set up in Albay to service about 44,000 residents displaced by Mayon volcano's restiveness.

Anthony Golez, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), said the mobile hospitals will be brought in from Manila within the week.

"They will serve as the center of all medical relief efforts in the area," he said.

At the same time, between 150 and 200 doctors from the Armed Forces Reserve Command will be deployed to the area to treat the increasing numbers of evacuees taken ill.

The OCD said local relief officials would have to "decongest" the evacuation centers soon. *(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A17)*

## Overshoot targets

The authorities had expected to evacuate 6,995 families, or 34,278 people, from the 8-kilometer extended danger zone from Mayon's summit.

But the number reached 44,000 people, Golez said.

These people have been in 31 evacuation centers since Aug. 7, when the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) declared that an explosive, hazardous eruption by Mayon was "imminent." *(See story on this page)*

"We overshoot targets," Golez said.

He said officials were considering either opening more schools or using the tents meant to serve as makeshift classrooms for displaced schoolchildren to house evacuees.

## Used in Iraq

Golez said each of the mini-hospitals was equipped with an operating table, generator, water tanks and 50 beds.

The three hospitals worth about $8 million were donated by the US to the Philippines in late 2004 after killer landslides hit Quezon province.

Golez said the hospitals were never used since the search and rescue operations in Quezon were finished by the time they arrived.

The mobile hospitals are similar to those being used by the US in Iraq, Golez said.

More relief supplies began arriving Tuesday as evacuees braced for a lengthy stay in overcrowded centers while Mayon held its fire, Agence-France Presse reported.

Officials said they had enough resources for one week, but they feared the evacuees might have to stay in the evacuation centers for up to two months due to the volcano's instability.

Truckloads of food and clothing from the Philippine National Red Cross, charity group World Vision, local civic groups like the Rotary Club and food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. started to arrive for the people forced to flee their homes.

"There are plenty of nongovernment organizations and companies that are willing to support us in relief items and food," said Legazpi City's disaster coordinator Pecos Intia.

## Adequate but dull

The evacuees sleep on cold cement floors with some 50 people crowded into each classroom.

They receive adequate but monotonous rations of rice, instant noodles and canned goods.

AFP interviewed evacuee Flor Agao, 41, a housewife, who said: "It would be ungrateful of us to say we are getting tired of eating the same thing day after day," but she was specially grateful for donations of pork because they added variety to meals.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who visited an evacuation center Saturday, had ordered the dispatch of prefabricated structures and tents to avoid an outbreak of disease caused by the crowded conditions.

*With AFP*

# Senate asked to probe Poro Point

ILOCOS SUR GOV. Luis "Chavit" Singson yesterday welcomed Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's resolution asking the Senate to investigate the government's takeover of Poro Point.

He said: "That is the best step to be taken and let the axe fall where it may." As a matter of fact, he said, he has written to some senators and requested for the same investigation.

"I do not know why some people insist on linking me to this issue. All I know is that the Poro Point Industrial Corporation is owned and controlled by a certain Mr. and Ms Manny Tan who is a big time rice trader and a very close friend of former President Estrada.

Mr. and Ms Tan were committed to invest P840 million for the development of the seaport. However, to this date, the PPIC has not undertaken any development project for the past eight years, which is a clear violation of the contract. He gained control over the operation of the seaport in 1999 when Estrada was still in Malacañang," Singson asserted.

He expressed optimism that a full-blown Senate investigation will unearth all the pertinent facts related to the turnover of the seaport from the BCDA to the Tans.

Poro Point should be managed by the well-qualified and highest bidder that could truly develop and expand its operation and services, which will eventually bring economic prosperity to Region I, if not the entire country, he said in a press statement.

# *Mayon watch: More volcanic flows feared*

LEGAZPI CITY—FRESH DE-POSITS OF searing gas, rocks and ash have been found on Mt. Mayon, prompting scientists to warn Tuesday that more of the destructive flows were likely.

Brief breaks in the clouds covering the volcano revealed fresh deposits in several gullies east and northeast of its summit, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said yesterday.

"More explosions from the crater are expected, and these shall likely generate pyroclastic flows," Phivolcs said in a statement, referring to the gas, ash and debris.

Lava flowing down Mayon has already destroyed wide swaths of farmland and permanently altered the terrain near two barangays, volcanologist Ed Laguerta said.

Some 50 hectares of farmland and plantations have been destroyed by the lava that has trickled down at least 6.7 kilometers since July 14, covering once fertile agricultural land with molten rock and debris 10 to 15 meters deep, Laguerta said.

Overnight, instruments recorded 4 mild ash explosions, 24 volcanic earthquakes and 330 tremors from lava fragments tumbling from the crater and upper slopes.

"The explosions, volcanic earthquakes, lava extrusion and high rates of degassing indicate a continuing high unrest at Mayon," Phivolcs' bulletin said.

Scientists have said the 2,462-m volcano may be gearing up for an explosive eruption.

Mayon started to spew ash and sulfuric dioxide last month.

Last week, the institute raised the alert level to 4—the second highest of a 5-step warning system—on fears of a possible "hazardous" eruption within days.

Laguerta said that since the alert was raised on Aug. 7, the volcano has had 35 ash explosions and has maintained an almost constant level of restiveness. But the expected explosive eruption has yet to happen.

"Maybe this week we will reassess the situation if this will not blow up," he said, adding that volcanologists may recommend shrinking the evacuation area. *(See other story on this page)*

Nearly 44,000 residents have been evacuated from 32 barangays, officials said. *AP*

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Spider veins on a formerly flawless face, leg or foot show one way of how aging makes its mark. These are actually normal veins that have expanded and enlarged from the increased pressure of blood in the veins. Wearing high-heeled shoes and even very tight belts and clothing can put excess stress on the lower leg and cause a constriction of blood flow from the leg back to the heart. This can result to the appearance of spider veins. As for facial spider veins, they may appear as a result of too much sun exposure. Both types of spider veins can also appear as a result of hormonal changes and inherited factors.

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### TO VOID OR NOT TO VOID

# Verdict on nursing test out today

**By TJ Burgonio**

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMmission and the Board of Nursing are expected to issue their verdict on nursing graduates who passed the scandal-tainted June 2006 nursing board examinations today.

As the Senate resumes its inquiry into the reported leakage of test questions in the June exams today, PRC and BON officials face the tough task of resolving one urgent issue: whether to order new exams or proceed with the oath-taking of the successful examinees.

"A decision on what to do with the examinees will be issued. This is very urgent because the economic situation of those who passed the exams is being jeopardized," said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, the chair of the investigating committee on civil service.

The committee has invited PRC chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero—who, with two other PRC commissioners, skipped the first Senate hearing—and BON officials led by its chair Eufemia Octaviano, as well as representatives of nursing schools and some examinees the 1 p.m. hearing today.

Since the cheating issue surfaced, some of the graduates and nursing schools have been divided over whether the 17,000 successful examinees should be asked to go through the tedious process of retaking the exams or be allowed to go ahead and take the oath.

Neither the PRC nor the BON has given their decision on this.

"All the proposals of the nursing schools and examinees will be inputted and evaluated. But in the end, the power to make a decision on what to do with the examinees lies with the PRC and the BON," Biazon said.

Biazon said he preferred administering the oath to the successful examinees but only if personalities behind the leakage were prosecuted.

The Senate opened an inquiry into the leakage following complaints that review materials allegedly used by the Gapuz review center contained questions that cropped up at the nursing board examinations held on June 11 and 12 around the country. The review center has denied this.

Octaviano admitted at the first hearing that there was "premature release" of the actual test questions for sets three and five of the exams, but refused to categorically say if there was any leakage.

The PRC, which is being accused of dragging its feet in its investigation of the leakage, has recommended the filing of administrative charges against Anesia Dionisio and Virginia Madeja, members of the nursing board which prepared the questions, and a further investigation of the matter by the National Bureau of Investigation.

Hundreds of nursing students yesterday held a rally in front of the PRC office in Manila to protest proposals that they be made to retake the exam.

"We are all for the investigation and speedy resolution of the case, but we believe that retaking the exams is not the solution to the problem," said Andrea Enriquez, a nursing graduate of the Philippine Women's University.

Enriquez said the protest was joined by students from PWU, United Doctors Medical Center, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig and the Manila Doctors Hospital College.

But another group of students who favored a re-examination held a simultaneous rally in front of the PRC yesterday.

"Retaking the examinations would cleanse our batch's negative image as cheaters," said a nursing graduate who requested anonymity.

*With a report from Margaux C. Ortiz*

# 3 Pinoys freed in Nigeria

LAGOS, NIGERIA—ARMED MEN ON MONday kidnapped four more foreign oil workers in Nigeria's southern oil city of Port Harcourt but released three Filipinos abducted more than 10 days ago in the latest of a series of incidents in volatile Niger Delta.

"The four oil workers were kidnapped in the early hours of today. The situation is becoming worrisome. We need prayers because what is happening now could also affect our Nigerian brothers," River State police spokesperson Ireju Barasua told AFP by telephone from Port Harcourt, the state capital.

She said only two—a Briton and and an American—of the four oil workers could yet be identified.

"We are definitely working hard to ensure their release," she said, but when she was reminded that seven other foreign oil workers were still being held, she went mute.

Ireland's foreign ministry said later that an Irishman was among the four workers.

News of the latest kidnappings followed the release on the same day of three Filipino oil industry workers abducted by armed militants 10 days ago.

Cornelio Fallaria, Daniel Monteagudo and Alberto Torres were turned over to embassy officials on Monday morning, Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos told reporters.

The three were abducted on Aug. 4 on Bonny Island, where they were working on a multi-billion-dollar liquefied natural gas project.

Nigerian police spokesperson Haz Iwendi confirmed their release.

Port Harcourt is at the heart of Nigeria's multi-billion-dollar oil and gas industry where many oil firms have their operational base.

*AFP*

# Gov't asked to abandon 'all-out' war vs Reds

**By Norman Bordadora**

THE LEADER OF AN anticommunist organization yesterday urged the government to call off its all-out war against the communist movement and instead focus on the "woes" of the masses.

"If I were the government, I would do away with the military phase of the all-out war against insurgency. I would focus on the information and socioeconomic aspects of the effort to demonstrate the government's strong position against violence," said Pastor Alcover, chair of the Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy.

His proposal, he said, would involve tapping local government units in winning the war against the 37-year-old insurgency, by addressing the social and economic woes of the grassroots. This could be done through the improved delivery of basic services, such as education, health care and housing.

## Infodrive

"Complementing this socioeconomic initiative is a massive information campaign that would educate the people on the true objectives of the CPP-NPA and the ways employed by its members in achieving the goal of overthrowing the state," Alcover said.

He noted that President Macapagal-Arroyo was right when she issued Executive Order No. 546, giving LGUs and the PNP more active roles in the government's counterinsurgency campaign.

"If militant party-list organizations and their affiliate groups are truly sincere in achieving peace, they should convince their armed comrades in the NPA to surrender, lay down their arms and rejoin the mainstream of society," Alcover said.

## Correction

IN THE AUG. 10 issue, the caption of a photo accompanying a front-page story—"Money talks: GMA execs attend Senate budget hearing"—misspelled the surname of the education secretary. The education secretary's name is Jesli Lapus—not Lapuz.

* * *

*Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.*

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**Judicial and Bar Council**
Manila

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All applicants to all JBC positions must submit to the JBC Secretariat ASAP via fax, mail or e-mail their updated JBC Form 1, current cellphone and landline numbers and current residence and e-mail addresses.

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# AFP, PNP split work in drive vs insurgency

**By Luige A. del Puerto**

LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER MALAcañang approved a more aggressive role for the police in the anti-insurgency campaign, the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces have agreed to divide the work of going after communist guerrillas.

In a statement, the PNP said it will concentrate in flushing out communist rebels in urbanized areas, while the AFP will do the same in the countryside.

According to Deputy Director General Isidro Lapeña, the PNP's third in command and supervisor of police units in Southern Philippines, the urbanized centers referred to cities.

Police have already stepped up its legal offensive, urging soldiers and civilians to file lawsuits against local rebels.

The move further confirmed the national security tact being adopted by government, that is, to employ everything in its arsenal, particularly its military might, to crush the communist rebellion in the countryside.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, appear undaunted, however.

In an article, "Major points in the tit for tat struggle against the US-directed war of terror," posted on its web site recently, the CPP's military commission claimed that the NPA has "seized the initiative in fighting and defeating the enemy."

"It [the NPA] can at will use the major tactics," it said, adding it could also hit government troops using land mines whose use has been repeatedly deplored both by the military and peace watch groups.

"At an accelerated rate, the NPA can engage in both annihilative and attritive tactical offensives within the current strategic defensive," it said.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 16, 2006
19th Week in Ordinary Time
Stephen of Hungary

**1st Reading:** Ezk 9:1-7; 10:18-22
**Gospel:** Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples, "If your brother or sister has sinned against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are in private, and if he listens to you, you have won your brother. If you are not listened to, take with you one or two others so that the case may be decided by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he still refuses to listen to them, tell it to the assembled Church. But if he does not listen to the Church, then regard such one as a pagan or a publican.

I say to you: whatever you bind on earth, heaven will keep bound; and whatever you unbind on earth, heaven will keep unbound.

In like manner, I say to you: if on earth two of you are united in asking for anything, it will be granted to you by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered in my Name, I am there among them."

**Commentary**

*This is a judgment scene, Ezekiel's vision of an angel marking with an X those who mourn and weep over the evil that is done, starting in the temple, and then out into the city. And the glory of the Lord leaves the temple.*

*And Jesus brings a new form of judgment upon us. It begins with forgiveness so graciously given to us. And we must give that to others. We must try individually, with two or three, with elders, with small groups and the larger Church and then, even treat those who have sinned the way Jesus has treated the Gentiles and tax collectors—with more kindness and mercy. And we are to pray first and always for forgiveness for others and unity among ourselves.*

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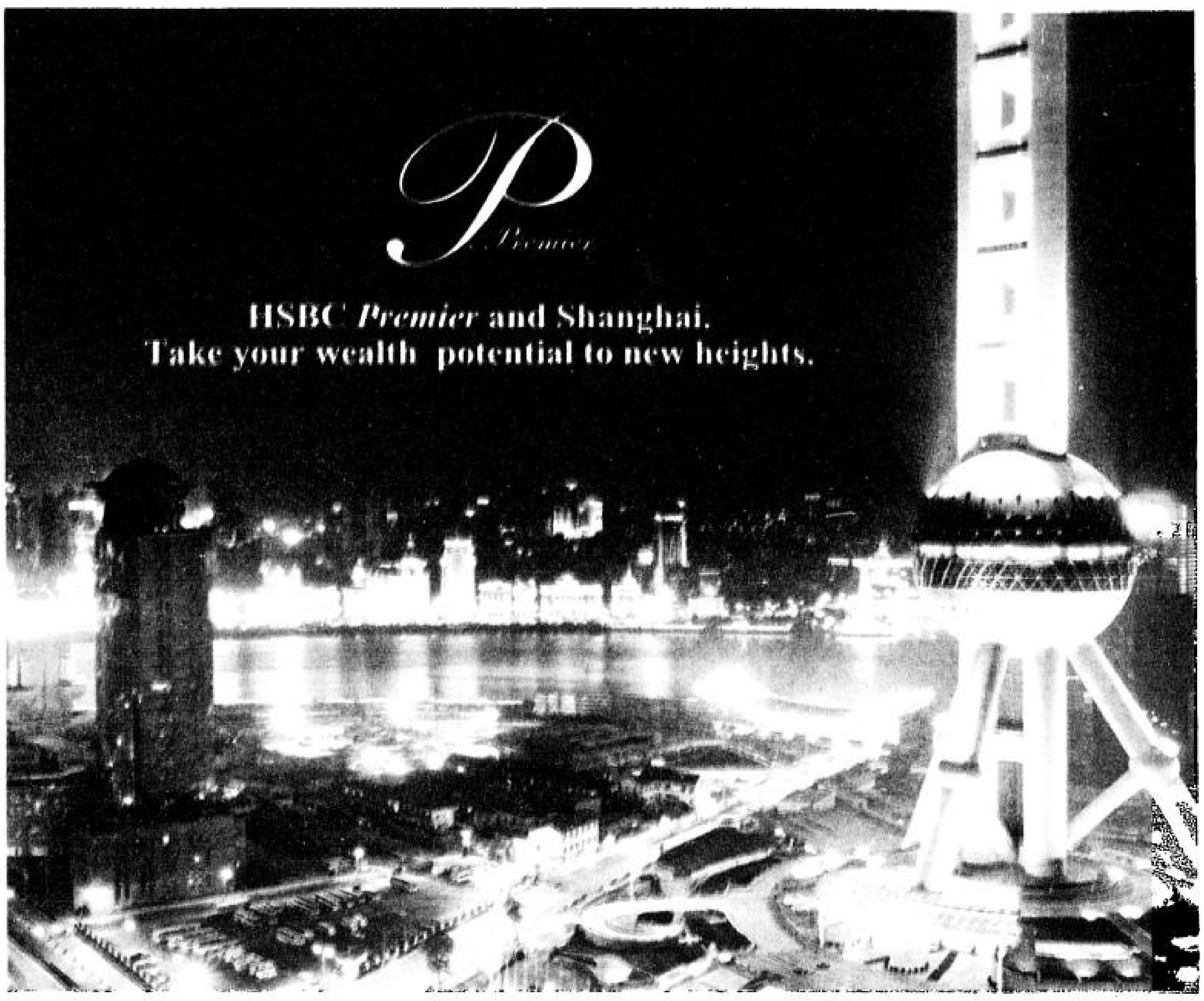
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### EXPLAINING OWWA FUNDS

# DOH chief goes to media since Senate won't listen

CALLING MONDAY'S SENATE BUDGET HEARing "one-sided," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III yesterday brought his case to the media, saying no irregularity attended the transfer of P530 million in overseas Filipino workers' funds to the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth).

In a press conference, Duque defended the controversial fund transfer which opponents of President Macapagal-Arroyo claim benefited her campaign for the presidency in 2004.

"The truth is on my side," Duque told reporters. "I've told them time and again (critics) that if you can prove that a single centavo was transferred before or during the elections, I will resign immediately."

Duque said he never got to give his side to the senators, though, when he appeared at the hearing on Monday to defend the Department of Health's share (P1.1 billion) of the proposed P46-billion supplemental national budget.

In the proposed national budget for 2006, which was not approved in the bicameral conference committee, the DOH was seeking an outlay of P2.9 billion.

Referring to one opposition senator at the hearing, Duque said: "He just blocked me and said I used the Philhealth cards for the President's campaign."

Armed with documents, including vouchers, receipts, checks and board resolutions, Duque said the first tranche of OFW finds in the amount of P300 million wasn't transferred to Philhealth until March 16, 2005, or 10 months after the May 2004 elections.

The rest of the money—P230 million—was transferred the following month, on April 5, as shown by LandBank check numbered 159118.

Part of the P530 million—which represents 15 percent of the total Overseas Workers Welfare Administration's Medicare fund—went to pay OFW claims in 137 hospitals.

Duque furnished reporters a 24-page list of the hospitals.

As of today, he said, Philhealth has 64.9 million members, many of them indigent.

"It's a case of bad politics spoiling a good project," he said.

*Christian V. Esguerra*

# Subic rape trial resumes

FOLLOWING A TWO-week break, the court is set to resume tomorrow the marathon trial of four American Marines accused of conspiring to rape a Filipino woman last November.

True to the date agreed by the prosecution and defense, Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139 Judge Benjamin Pozon will resume the two-month-old trial tomorrow, with prosecution witness Dr. Rolando Ortiz II expected to be recalled to the stand.

Proceedings on the rape case had adjourned for a 16-day break on Aug.1 after the prosecution panel told Pozon that Ortiz would be unavailable for two weeks because of an undisclosed illness.

Ortiz, also a criminology professor, was the medico-legal officer who examined complainant Nicole at the James Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City some 33 hours after the alleged rape.

The 22-year-old alleged victim was brought there after Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith allegedly raped her on board a Starex van cruising the Subic Bay Freeport, as three comrades—Lance Cpls. Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier—egged him on.

# Fernandez named ass't SolGen

SARAH JANE T. FERnandez was recently appointed Assistant Solicitor General. Fernandez, who is from Dagupan City, graduated with a degree in BS Legal Management from the Ateneo de Manila University. She was conferred a Juris Doctor Degree (Second Honors) by the Ateneo de Manila School of Law in 1994. She also holds a Master in Management from the Asian Institute of Management.

She joined the Office of the Solicitor General in 1995 as an associate solicitor and steadily rose from the ranks. As a solicitor, Fernandez was part of the team that successfully defended the Reformed Value-Added Tax cases before the Supreme Court.

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# House allies nix 7 boxes of evidence

From page A1

Ms Arroyo is accused of culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of the public trust, bribery and corruption, and other high crimes for allegedly stealing the 2004 presidential election, muzzling dissent, abetting political killings and receiving "jueteng" bribes.

## 'Recycled garbage'

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye dismissed the opposition's latest move to oust the President. He described as "recycled garbage" the seven boxes of evidence opposition congressmen announced on Monday they had amassed to prove their case.

"The President's detractors will employ every cinematic effect to advance their smear campaign," Bunye said in a statement.

He said the opposition was better off filling up the boxes with food, clothing and other relief items for Mayon evacuees and other calamity victims in the country.

Eight impeachment complaints were lodged this year, but the committee threw out seven for lack of form, having been filed within the one-year ban on filing such a case against the President.

In Monday's hearing to determine if the complaint filed by the Black and White Movement was sufficient in substance, Rep. Simeon Datumanong, the committee chair, turned down opposition demands to allow it to present evidence and for private complainants to argue their case.

## 'Requirement of substance'

Quoting Rule 3, Section 4 of the impeachment rules, Datumanong said the "requirement of substance is met if there is a recital of facts constituting the offense charged and determinative of the jurisdiction of the committee."

He then gave each side two hours to argue its position. The committee was scheduled to vote on the substance issue at 9 p.m. but lengthy debates forced its postponement.

Fearing a vote that would doom the impeachment effort, the opposition succeeded in delaying the proceedings by raising parliamentary inquiries and points of order.

Exasperated, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said:

"The proimpeach advocates are still running around in technical circles raising all kinds of questions not pertinent to House rules and questions of impeach substance. We expect all kinds of inquiry and manifestations all pointing to more delays."

Preempting the debate on substance, Golez quickly moved that the committee first vote on each of the causes of action—not three but 22 if all the specific charges were counted—enumerated in the complaint.

## Each charge fatal

"This is logical because each cause of action is independent of the others. Each can be potentially fatal to the respondent (Ms Arroyo). What they want is lump sum. How can we intelligently argue on each case if we do it lump sum? How can the human brain evaluate and assess 22 cases all at once?" said Golez.

Arguing against the Golez motion, Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte said the move was "not only premature but confuses the issues."

Villafuerte said discussion of the specific charges would come later or after the committee had determined that the complaint had both form and substance, a requirement before an impeachment complaint could be tried in the Senate.

"The rules we adopted make a distinction between the determination of substance and grounds of impeachment related to specific cause of action," said Villafuerte.

## 'Chop suey' complaint

The latter would be dealt with after the proper procedural flow was followed, he said.

"If there's sufficiency in substance, then the next step is to require the respondent President to answer, (and later ask the minority) to submit a rejoinder, counter-affidavits," Villafuerte said.

He pointed out that documentary evidence would have to be submitted only at the later stage of the process.

It's also at this point that witnesses could be summoned to testify before the committee, he said.

Villafuerte said it was impossible to talk about causes of action because the complaint lodged by private individuals contained specific allegations that fell under many causes of action. "It's chop suey," he said.

Defending the Golez motion, Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said it was "logical, practical and fair."

Cayetano explained that the impeachment rules were clear that as long as the committee assumed the facts to be true and it fell within the jurisdiction of the committee on justice, the complaint was deemed sufficient in substance.

## A great injustice

"But how can we determine the facts if we take all of these together and not go one by one? It's a great injustice to the people," said Cayetano as he recited each of the charges against Ms Arroyo.

Cayetano said the committee's duty was not limited to holding the President accountable. "It's also our duty to (talk about issues) linked to other issues affecting the country" such as the alleged misuse of the funds of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

The impeachment complaint alleged that Ms Arroyo illegally used Owwa funds to pay for Philhealth cards for voters.

Cayetano said in the Supreme Court and "almost all courts, including basketball courts," the referee would be obliged to explain the fouls one by one. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

# No happy ending in tale . . .

From page A1

Supreme Court not to dismiss him from the judiciary for being incapable of deciding cases on his own without help from his paranormal allies.

The court said psychic phenomena had no place in the judiciary.

In a resolution released yesterday, the 15 justices of the high tribunal threw out three motions for reconsideration filed by the 53-year-old judge asking the court to dismiss the administrative complaint filed against him and to return him to the bench.

The decision penned by Associate Justice Minita Chico-Nazario "denied with finality" Floro's motions for lack of merit. It said it would no longer entertain further motions from the former Malabon judge.

"We reiterate that judges are expected to be guided by the rule of law and to resolve cases before them with judicial detachment," the court said.

## Object of ridicule

The court said its decision had nothing to do with Floro's belief in dwarves or the validity of such a belief, but on the need to protect the integrity of the judiciary as a "rational guardian of the law."

"The psychological finding of mental unfitness (made not only by the psychiatrists of the Supreme Court clinic but by Judge Floro's own doctors during the hearing of his cases), when taken together with Judge Floro's claimed dalliance with 'dwendes,' poses a serious challenge to such required judicial detachment and impartiality and would eventually erode the public's acceptance of the judiciary as the rational guardian of the law, if not make it an object of ridicule," the court said.

"In fine, Judge Floro himself has confirmed that he is incapable of discharging the duties of a judge free from extrajudicial influences and that he falls short of the fundamental requirements of competence and objectivity expected of all judges," the court said.

On March 31, the court dismissed Floro after finding him to be suffering from a mental "disabling condition" that made it impossible for him to discharge his judicial functions.

In that decision also penned by Nazario, Floro was found guilty of seven of the 13 administrative charges lodged against him by the Office of the Court Administrator.

## Seeing the future

Among other things, Floro admitted believing in "psychic visions" to see the future because of his power in "psychic phenomenon."

He also confessed that he had made a covenant with his "dwarf friends," that he could write while in a trance and that he had been seen by several people in two places at the same time.

"Psychic phenomena, even assuming such exist, have no place in a judiciary duty bound to apply only positive law and, in its absence, equitable rules and principles in resolving controversies," the court said in an en banc decision.

In his motion for reconsideration, Floro had taunted the court, saying its decision had made him and his imaginary friends "immortal."

"From obscurity, my name ... and the three mystic dwarfs became—immortal—not only in this country, not solely in international broadcasts (CNN, MSN-NBC) or in almost all print media worldwide, but first and foremost, in the indelible memory of world judicial history," he said in a letter to the court.

Floro also said news of his dismissal appeared in forum discussions in more than 1,000 blogs and elicited 10,000 replies all over the world, with believers of the occult and those who claim to see spirits and dwarves siding with him.

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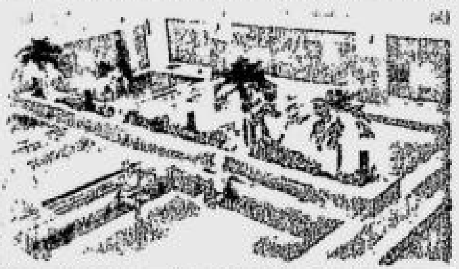

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# Amnesty Int'l tells RP: Shame on you

From page A1

sociation," said AI's Southeast Asia researcher Tim Parritt.

In its report that included case studies of the killings and of warrantless arrests, AI listed these key recommendations: Reassertion of respect for human rights; guarantee of the administration of justice; compliance with the human rights agreement in the peace process, and action by other human rights institutions.

## UN mechanisms

AI called on the Philippine government to seek the expertise of the United Nations' "relevant special mechanisms" by inviting the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions, the Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders and representatives of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to visit the Philippines.

It also called for an independent oversight body that would ensure that all investigations of political killings—including those by the Philippine National Police's Task Force Usig—were backed by effective coordination between the PNP, National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice and Department of National Defense.

Asked yesterday to comment, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "Let us be very clear: These killings are appalling and the President condemns them in the strongest possible terms. She has taken a number of actions. She has offered rewards, brought in the police and directed the [DOJ] to stop at nothing in bringing the perpetrators to justice. She is determined to bring these breaches under control and to mete out the harshest punishments to the offenders."

## Culture of impunity

In her State of the Nation Address last month, the President said she was condemning the political killings. But she also heaped lavish praise on Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, who has been tagged the "butcher" of leftist activists for the cases of extrajudicial killings and rights abuses in areas where he has been posted.

"The common features in the methodology of the attacks, the leftist profile of the victims and an apparent culture of impunity shielding the perpetrators has led AI to believe that the killings are not an unconnected series of criminal murders, armed robberies or other unlawful killings," the group said.

"Rather, they constitute a pattern of politically targeted extrajudicial executions taking place within the broader context of a continuing counterinsurgency campaign," it said.

It cited motorcycle-riding death squads preying on leftist activists as well as cases of militant politicians and activists being labeled as communist cadres.

AI called for a renewed commitment from both the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines to respect human rights, noting that the New People's Army, the armed wing of the CPP, had announced the formation of "retaliatory hit squads" against government forces.

"With the political will necessary to revive peace negotiations currently appearing absent, [AI] believes it essential that all sides urgently reassert respect for human rights in order to prevent the serious threat of a renewed spiral of human rights abuses," the group said.

## 'Official acquiescence'

AI said there was "an increased risk that those responsible for the killings would believe that they had received a signal of official acquiescence for these abuses."

It cited "repeated credible reports that members of the security forces have been directly involved in the attacks, or else have tolerated, acquiesced to, or been complicit in them."

It said that as early as 2003, the UN Human Rights Committee called for government action on "the lack of appropriate measures to investigate crimes allegedly committed by state security forces and agents and to prosecute and punish these perpetrators."

AI called on the Deputy Ombudsman for the military and other law enforcement offices to conduct "prompt, thorough, impartial and effective" inquiries into all complaints of political killings purportedly involving military, police or other security personnel.

It said these inquiries should, as appropriate, lead promptly to recommendations to the DOJ to file criminal charges against those found responsible.

"Stemming this tide of killings requires genuine political will to ensure prosecution in all cases—not only the 10 cases in 10 weeks recently called for by President Arroyo," Parritt said.

## 'Primary target' of gov't

AI said that in February, Ms Arroyo declared a state of emergency on the basis of a purported plot to overthrow her administration by members of the mainstream opposition in "tactical alliance" with rightists, communist rebels, progressive leftist groups and current and former military personnel.

"However, the primary target of government action appeared to be the CPP-NPA and the progressive leftist parties, which were now explicitly accused by senior government officials of being front organizations for illegal communist armed groups," AI said.

It said that on Feb. 26, police lodged a "rebellion" complaint with government prosecutors against some 50 prominent figures from across the spectrum of the Left, including communist leaders in exile and leaders of militant party-list groups.

"In a serious blow to prospects for reviving confidence in the peace process, the list of those accused of rebellion was substantially composed of persons previously listed in the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees, and the addresses of most of the suspects was cited as the Secretariat of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the [Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law]," AI said.

The group said that over the subsequent months it appeared "increasingly clear" that the government had decided to abandon its peace talks with the National Democratic Front, the CPP's political wing. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

# 'Heathrow terror made me a certified bag lady'

From page A1

men plotting to blow up airliners flying between the United Kingdom and the United States.

My original booking was for Thursday, Aug. 10, the day Heathrow airport was turned upside down in a surreal scene of chaos. Providentially, I had called Cathay Pacific four days earlier to move my flight to the following day, Friday. I wanted to be sure I got the book (Kurt Vonnegut's "Cat's Cradle") I had ordered from Amazon for my grandson as part of his summer reading.

I took note of the only items that passengers would be allowed to take on board—prescription medicines, prescription eyeglasses (without their cases), pocket-size wallets and their contents (money, credit cards), travel documents (passports and tickets), contact lens holders (but not solutions), keys (but not key fobs), tissues and handkerchiefs, baby food if traveling with an infant (which mothers would have to taste in front of the security agent) and sanitary items for women.

No handbags, no matter how small, were to be allowed. All handbags, knapsacks and laptops were to be in checked-in luggage.

## 'Supot'

Heathrow staff were supposedly handing out transparent plastic shopping bags for passengers to use.

I immediately got text messages from my daughters—one in London and the other in Manila—telling me that I would be in my element.

They know my traveling habit of bringing a *supot* (a plastic shopping bag) into which I throw a shawl, a book or magazine, a neck pillow, medicines and some basic cosmetics. They constantly tease me about being a bag lady. For this reason, one of them gave me a Le SportSac leopard-print bag in the shape of a *supot*, with a zipper.

The disconcerting news on TV made me so nervous that I packed my computer bag without the laptop in it. It was my grandson who called my attention to the laptop I had left on the counter in my bedroom.

My *balae* gave me a big Zip-loc plastic bag into which I could put my wallet, a rosary, a few medicines, and my small hairbrush which she, my son and his wife tried to dissuade me from taking. I told them it was essential to my wellbeing.

They also urged me not to take the Carlos Fuentes book, "Terra Nostra," I was reading. I thought they were being "more popish than the Pope" when they argued that Heathrow security might confiscate the book on the suspicion that its text was encrypted with al-Qaida instructions for bombmaking.

## Long queues

At Heathrow's Terminal 3, burly policemen in yellow jackets and black helmet-shaped hats with a large badge in the front, and others in black vests, fingers on the triggers of submachine guns, met us at every turn.

The terminal itself was surrounded by police vans and cars.

As I had expected, the place was incredibly crowded. Passengers were wheeling their carts as best they could and establishing territorial rights to their place in a queue.

There were long queues to Her Majesty's customs counter for departing passengers like myself claiming 17.5 percent VAT refunds for purchases in the European Union.

The lines at the check-in counters were even longer, presumably because all the flights were full (the previous day's flights had been cancelled for the most part).

The longest queues—coiling as many as three times—were those at the security gates leading to the predeparture area. Fortunately I was in business class, and thus entitled to be in the relatively short fast-track queue.

As I stood in the security queue, my son told me to wear my rosary around my neck, as though it were a necklace, although the beads were made of wood. And as passengers could not take eyeglass cases on board, I wore my glasses above my forehead.

## 3 screenings

There were three security screenings to hurdle—an ocular inspection of the contents of plastic bags, the standard X-ray machines that scanned the bags and a body search.

My turn came to face the man at the prescreening counter.

Peeking into my bag, he took out my mini hairbrush, then my cheap ballpoint pen. He was about to throw them into the bin beside him when I requested their return and handed them to my son, who was standing to the side of the queue, toward the rear.

Next the man picked up my plastic bottle of eye drops. I politely took it from him, unscrewed the cap, and applied some drops into my eye, to prove that they weren't explosive or corrosive.

But he wasn't amused. He took the bottle and quickly dropped it into the bin before I could retrieve it from him.

He did the same with a tiny packet of feminine wipes he had discovered. But he missed three others I had hidden between novenas to St. Therese of the Child Jesus and to Our Lady of Guadalupe. (These holy ladies were on my side!)

## Lipstick

After an uneventful X-ray scan, a woman agent conducted a body search, even touching my crotch. Fortunately I have long done with sanitary napkins and wasn't yet at the stage of adult diapers. I shudder to think that I could have been ordered to go to the toilet to take my diaper off.

At last, I got to the duty-free shop where I could purchase lipstick and pressed powder.

(I knew Cathay Pacific would be giving passengers a vanity kit with a toothbrush and toothpaste, a comb and mini hairbrush, a small bottle of mouth wash, in-flight socks, an eye mask, foam ear plugs, and sample-size tubes of face and eye creams. And there would always be hand cream and cologne in the toilet, as well as a can of refreshing face spritz.)

Other passengers had the same idea, and I noticed how busily the cashiers rang up duty-free sales in the predeparture area.

The fact that I had been deprived of my comfort creams and sprays got me buying more than was necessary, so that in the end I was carrying four transparent plastic bags filled with cosmetics, chocolates and magazines into the Airbus A340-30 that was to take me to Hong Kong in 12 hours and 15 minutes, and thence to Manila.

# Meet Criselda and Candelaria: They build world-class ships

From page A1

ment, each supervising a group of seven skilled welders.

Capampangan, 22, on the other hand, is the new girl on the block.

The graduate of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) has just been certified by the international certifying body DMV after six months of rigorous on-the-job training and apprenticeship at the yard.

Capampangan can now work on the critical areas of the ships under construction at FBMA, particularly the parts that go under the water.

## High-tech vessel

Her first project was the Lider, one of the two 28.5-m "Slice" vessels ordered by Mexican state oil company, Pemex.

The Lider and its twin, Tenaz, will be operated by Hoteleria y Servicios Petroleros in the Gulf of Mexico. They are the world's first commercially produced high-tech fast craft using the design of Lockheed Martin, the world's largest defense contractor.

Capampangan proudly told the INQUIRER in Cebuano that she had worked on the 15 tanks of the two vessels designed to transport oil and gas workers from the mainland of Mexico to offshore oil rigs, even in extreme weather conditions.

Lider has been delivered while the Tenaz started its 30-day trip to Mexico yesterday from the shipyard here about one-and-a-half-hours west of Cebu City.

Both have a small plaque in the passenger section that says that the ships were made in Balamban, as do other ships that have sailed from the FBMA shipyard facing Tañon Strait.

Garcia said she felt both happy and sad whenever a ship they had worked on left port. She felt proud about contributing to putting the Philippines on the world shipbuilding map but she felt sad about letting go of something she had grown to love while working on it for over 12 months.

## Tools of the trade

Candelaria, Capampangan and four other female welders, along with the 200 other skilled workers in the crew, have oxygen gas tanks and welding machines as the main tools of their trade.

They must fuse the parts of the aluminum superstructure and hull together by holding the welder steady at a 45-degree angle. It is comparatively easy to do this while standing against the ship, but there are times when they have to weld while lying on their backs or in cramped, tight spaces.

They have to do so while keeping their arm fixed in the right position.

The tiniest twitch may cause bubbles to form, making that part of the ship vulnerable to stress. That part could break apart when big waves come crashing in the open sea. The wrong form could also cause the superstructure to become porous or permeable to water, the enemy of any ship.

Quality control people pass their work through a special X-ray machine that will see if bubbles had formed. Some parts are also subjected to a stress test. Parts that are welded the right way will just bend, but not break.

## Passing quality controls

Garcia said that as team leader her responsibility is to make sure that her team passes quality controls, or else they would have to do the work all over again—a waste of time and money.

It is a far different world from the one she left behind as a sales girl after she completed high school.

She said in Cebuano that her uncle had told her that FBMA was setting up shop in Balamban and that it was looking for people to train as specialty welders.

Although Garcia only had a vague idea of what the job would require, she immediately joined the three-month training program with the thought that it would offer her a better future.

"The salary was also much better and it assured me of a long-term job," she said.

Garcia earns about P14,000 a month today including an allowance for being a team leader. Combined with the income of her husband, whom she met at FBMA where he worked as a fabricator, they earn more than enough for their family.

## A challenge

For Capampangan, it was the challenge of being just one of a handful of women on the job that attracted her to the life of a welder.

It was also closest to achieving her dream of becoming a mechanical engineer. She was just one year into her course when financial difficulties forced the second of seven children of farmers to quit school.

"Going to a vocational school was my other option. I decided to learn welding because I thought it was challenging and there were so few women," Capampangan said.

## Only 6 among 200 men

Garcia and Campangan are two of only six women among more than 200 men working at FBMA. They said the work has been hard but fulfilling.

They added that they are always treated well by the men. No such thing as sexual harassment, nor are there crude jokes made at their expense.

"We are treated with respect," Garcia said.

So, too, by the owners of the ships they make who recognize how world-class Filipino workers are, male or female.

# Guimaras declares state of calamity over oil spill

From page A1

Guimaras has declared a state of calamity following the oil spill.

"For the oil slick to reach Boracay, the winds and ocean current should turn left, north of Panay island. That will not happen," said Nathaniel Cruz, chief of the weather branch of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Cruz said the prevailing winds and currents in the country were moving from the southwest to the northeast.

He made this point a day after a spokesperson of the Philippine Coast Guard warned that the oil slick could reach Boracay.

Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Coyme said he could not rule out the possibility of Boracay being affected by the oil spill, which he called a "national emergency."

## Irresponsible

The PCG statement did not sit well with the Philippine Tourism Authority. PTA Chair Robert Dean Barbers called Coyme's statement "irresponsible."

"I wrote the Coast Guard asking it to explain how exactly the oil spill could reach Boracay, which is on the opposite side of Panay Island," Barbers said.

Black sticky sludge is oozing from the MT Solar I, which sank 24 km southwest of Guimaras on Friday. The tanker, owned by Sunshine Marine Development Corp., was carrying two million liters of bunker fuel. Oil refiner Petron Corp. had chartered the tanker to ferry the fuel to Zamboanga del Sur.

Barbers said the PCG should have consulted the PTA before issuing the statement.

## Remote

In March, the PTA was authorized by President Macapagal-Arroyo to take administrative control of Boracay and maximize the island's potential as a world-class tourist destination.

Coast Guard Iloilo commander Harold Hardner described as "remote" the possibility of the sludge oozing from the tanker affecting Boracay.

"Boracay is off the top of Panay island and the sinking occurred in waters south of Panay and Guimaras," he told local radio.

Cruz said Boracay was far from the site of the oil spill that it was virtually impossible for the slick to affect the island resort.

An oil spill off Semirara Island in Antique last December was closer to Boracay but the slick didn't reach the island, according to Cruz.

"What we should worry about are the aquatic resources off Iloilo and Guimaras," Cruz said referring to the coastal areas near the sunken oil tanker.

## Marine reserve affected

The oil slick has already affected 1,100 hectares of mangroves in Guimaras, with 26 ha badly hit on the Taclong Island Marine Reserve.

The marine reserve is home to mangroves, coral reefs and sea grass beds that serve as breeding grounds for fish and other forms of marine life.

Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava said the spill had contaminated the coastline of 14 barangays—11 in Nueva Valencia town and three in Sibunag town—as of noon yesterday.

The spill has affected 3,000 families or around 10,000 persons, according to Nava. At least 1,180 fisherfolk in Nueva Valencia town alone have been deprived of their livelihood.

The oil slick was also spotted nearing the mouth of Lawi Cove in the capital town of Jordan, north of Nueva Valencia.

## Containment

The PCG yesterday monitored the oil spill 16 km off the coast of Valladolid town, around 30 km south of Bacolod City.

Lt. Edgar Ybañez, commander of the Coast Guard station in Bacolod City, said the oil spill had reached Lawi Island, which is part of Valladolid.

The Coast Guard has brought in tugboats and skimmers to help contain the spread of the spill, said Capt. Luis Tuazon Jr., Coast Guard commander in Western Visayas.

Environment regional director Julian Amador said rains and rough seas were hampering the cleanup.

Amador urged the public to help by insulating their shorelines and mangrove areas with absorbent materials like *cogon* (a type of grass) and rice stalks.

He said fishermen on their *bancas* (outriggers) could help scoop up the bunker fuel in the water. "Everyone needs to help to prevent further environmental damage and death to marine life," he appealed. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Jerome Aning and AFP*

# Pinoy suicide bomber? It's still a long way off, says PNP chief

By Volt Contreras

IF IT'S ANY COMFORT, the world is unlikely to see a Filipino suicide bomber anytime soon although the country has figured prominently in the global war on terror, according to the chief of the Philippine National Police.

"It's not as if I'm daring terrorists out there, but no Filipino terrorist has enough courage just yet to become a human bomb," Director General Oscar Calderon said in Filipino during a media briefing yesterday.

"Our culture" could be a factor, he said, without elaborating.

Calderon said he could only recall one confirmed suicide bombing in the Philippines—and it involved foreign "instructors" who attacked an Army brigade headquarters in Cotabato several years ago.

"Nobody among the [Filipino] students wanted to volunteer," he noted.

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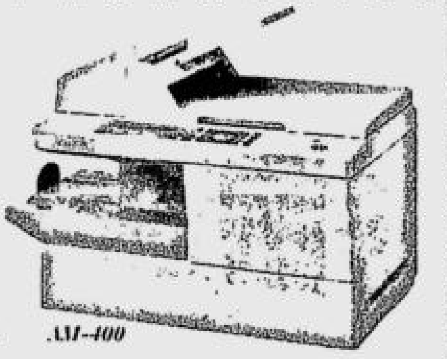
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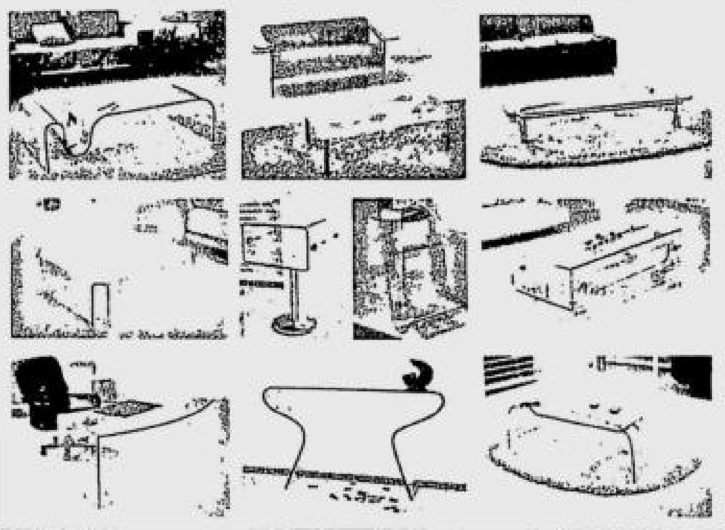
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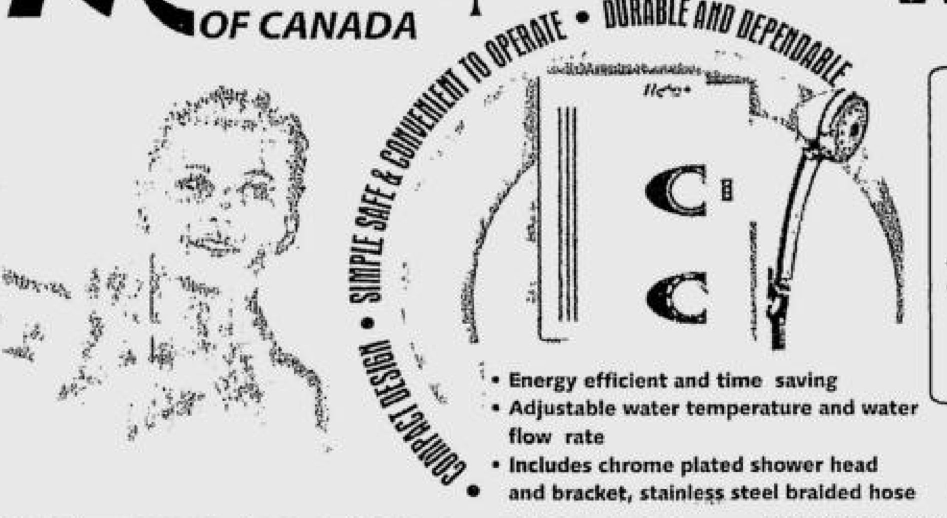
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# More RP kids dropping out ...

From page A1

child immunization rates, said Dalisay Maligalig, a senior statistician at the ADB.

"If you look at the survival rate of Grade 1 pupils through Grade 5, it declined. The child immunization rate also declined," Dalisay said, noting that this did not bode well for the country's growing need for skilled human resources for the booming business process outsourcing industry.

The net enrollment ratio of Filipino children has even deteriorated over the past two decades, according to the ADB report.

From a 97-percent ratio in 1990, the enrollment ratio dropped to 93 percent in 2000. It slightly improved to 94 percent in 2004 but was still lower than the level two decades ago.

## More girls in school than boys

The ADB found that Filipino girls had a 95-percent enrollment ratio, higher than the 93 percent for boys. But even these deteriorated from their 1990 levels of 96 percent and 97 percent, respectively.

The proportion of pupils who reach Grade 5 hardly improved, according to the bank. From a 75 percent ratio in 1990, it rose to 79 percent in 2000 but went down to 76 percent in 2003.

More girls (about 80 percent) get to survive through Grade 5 than boys (75 percent).

The proportion of children completing primary school has also declined, from 97 percent of enrollees in 1990 to 95 percent during the 2000-2004 period, the ADB said.

## Vietnam edges RP

"For many years, the Philippines has had higher enrollment rates at all levels of education than those of other countries with comparable or even higher levels of income. Recently, however, several countries in the region, notably Malaysia and Vietnam, have gained an edge over the Philippines even in basic education achievement," the ADB report said in the chapter "Measuring Policy Effectiveness in Health and Education."

Overall, the report said 18.1 percent of children aged 6 to 12 (of primary school age) in the Philippines were out of school. Of the out-of-school children, 21.3 percent came from the poorest 25 percent of the population. Only 7 percent were from the richest quartile.

## Worse than Indonesia's

The out-of-school ratio for primary school age children in the Philippines was worse than Indonesia's 5.6 percent and Vietnam's 12.4 percent, but better than Cambodia's 34.7 percent, Laos' 37.9 percent and Burma's 20.5 percent.

The top reasons cited for dropping out were poor health, lack of funds or the need for the children to work. The cost of sending a student to public elementary school was estimated at 2 percent of total household expenditures.

In the Philippines, the government is the major provider of basic education, with 90 percent of 6- to 12-year-olds enrolled in public primary schools.

## Immunization against measles

The ADB publication also noted that the proportion of one-year-olds immunized against measles shrunk from 85 percent in 1990 to 80 percent in 2004.

"Human capital investments in health and education are often viewed as one mechanism by which the mainstreaming of marginalized populations groups could occur, not simply in terms of equipping them with skills and ability to participate in the economy but also by protecting them from shocks and improving their general welfare," the ADB said.

Ajan Tandon, an ADB economist and author of the chapter on health and education, said: "In many countries, inequalities are exacerbated by public spending that supports better-off segments of society, such as on tertiary education, but does little to help the poor."

## Food for education

The chapter underscored the importance of carefully targeted policies and actions aimed at improving health and education for the poor. These included conditional cash transfers, food fortification, food-for-education programs, targeted scholarships, standard bricks-and-mortar improvements, and social infrastructure.

But in the case of the Philippines, there was even a decline in government spending while the population expanded.

"The name of the game is competitiveness and when we talk about competitiveness, we talk about firm level productivity and when we talk about firm level productivity, we talk about four I's—institution, infrastructure, incentives and information," Ali said.

"Whether you're doing enough compared to yesterday is not the issue. The issue is whether you're doing enough against your neighbors," he said.

## Malnutrition high

Countries, such as Bangladesh and India, have made significant progress in improving access to primary education but questions about the quality of basic education and inequalities in employment rates remain, the ADB report said.

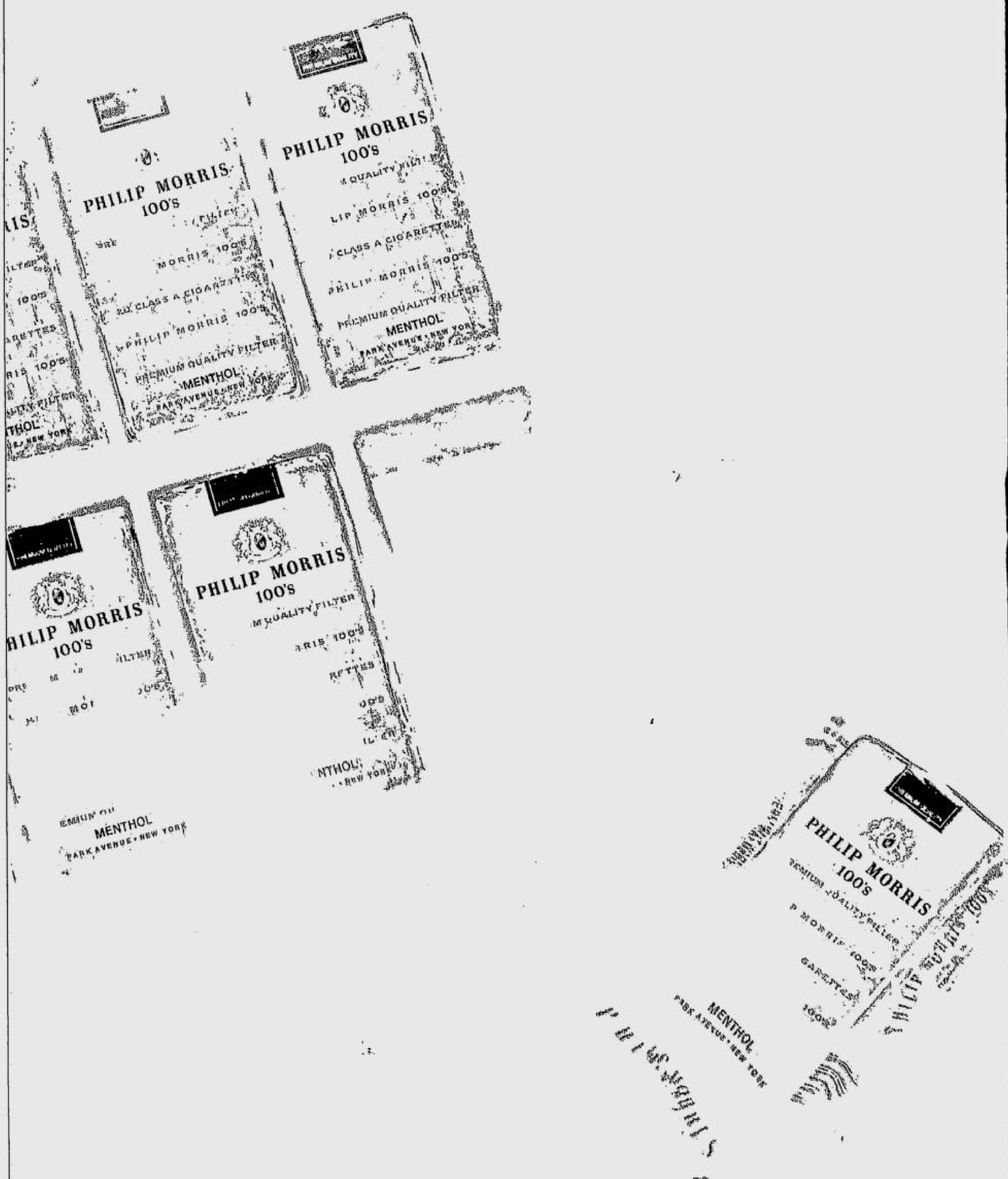
Despite significant declines in child mortality rates in Indonesia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka, the report said levels of child malnutrition remained high in the region.

It said Cambodia, India, Pakistan and several central Asian republics were all in danger of falling short of the target of reducing child mortality to two-thirds of the 1990 levels by 2015.

**NOTHING ON HIS PLATE:** One year and 8-month-old Angelu Echaluce looks like he has not had his fill at the evacuation center at Albay Central School in Legazpi City, Albay.

EDWIN BACASMAS

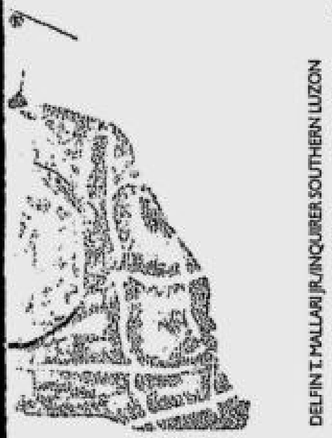
**HOW MUCH MORE CAN THEY TAKE?** Sisters Angela, 9 and Angeline, 3, are only two of the multitudes of Filipino children who are trapped in the middle of the shooting war between communist guerrillas and government troops that has been going on for more than four decades.



Government Warning
is dangerous

# Battle for hearts, minds hurts kids

From page A1



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war against the communist insurgency—the age-old battle for the people's hearts and minds.

It was part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's announced stepped-up campaign to eliminate the tenacious insurgency as a major security threat by the end of her term in 2010.

A soldier made people sign their names on a piece of paper as the villagers, barefoot or in muddy shoes and using leaves to shield themselves from the rain, arrived at the Veronica Elementary School in Lopez, Quezon.

For the villagers, attendance was a must, lest they draw suspicion that they were sympathizers of the rebels operating around Lopez, a communist hotbed.

"We had to bring them along even if it's raining," Maria Concepcion de Mesa said of her two children. "There is no one to look after them. Besides, there is no more food in our house."

She said the fighting between the government and the New People's Army rebels had been preventing them from working the farms.

## 'Soldiers are your allies'

In a dimly lit classroom, Army Lt. Mark Anthony Ruby of Charlie Company appealed to the villagers to cooperate in crushing the insurgents.

"Please join us in the government campaign to wipe out the enemies," Ruby said. "We're here to protect you from the NPA. The soldiers here are you allies and protectors and not your enemies."

The lieutenant's voice droned on. "We should be together in this battle against our common enemy, which is the NPA. Can we expect your cooperation?"

## Appeal to soldiers

His appeal was met with a stony silence. At most, a few murmurs rose in what seemed like a roomful of skeptics.

Wanting to break the ice, Ruby called on village chieftain Arturo Verdera.

"Our only concern here is for the soldiers not to hurt and harass my people," Verdera told the officers gathered in the room.

"We're all farmers here. We only want to live in peace, work in the farms to have a good harvest so that we can send our children to school and get a good education so that they will not become farmers for the rest of their lives."

## Army hostility

The barangay chief lamented that in most encounters between soldiers and the NPA, the villagers were caught in the middle.

"Even after the encounter, the villagers suffer the brunt of the Army's hostility. We're not your enemies. We're plain innocent farmers," Verdera said.

The villagers nodded in agreement.

The lieutenant spoke of killings committed by the rebels. He cited the case of one Alberto Gonzales, a sickly farmer who was allegedly killed by stray rebel fire during an encounter with soldiers three days earlier.

A pregnant villager identified as Cynthia Segui stood up.

## A different version

"He was not killed in an encounter because there was no battle that happened that day," she declared before the assembly. "I know because I live near the place where his body was found."

The officer looked stunned. Then, quickly, he clarified that it was not his team that was involved in the encounter but soldiers on patrol from another unit.

"I'm only relying on the report that was submitted to us by the unit involved. If there's a mistake in their report, tell us and I will file another report," Ruby said.

## More complaints

When Ruby asked his audience to report to him any abuses committed by his men, he received more complaints: Soldiers without nameplates, soldiers who kicked and slapped villagers on mere suspicion of being NPA allies.

Ruby tried to parry the accusations. His answer: "What the soldiers are doing are all part of security measures."

Talking with the INQUIRER later, the lieutenant hinted the meeting had been "infiltrated" by communist sympathizers.

Verdera described the villagers' situation as "*sala sa lamig, sala sa init.*" He meant they were in a damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't fix.

"We always have to stay neutral to avoid suspicions from the Army and the NPA," Verdera told the INQUIRER.

## Risk to barangay officials

Even the president of the association of village chairs in the province has disagreed with a government order tapping barangay officials in the war against the NPA.

"I understand it's part of our responsibilities as government officials. But I could not endorse that to my fellow barangay chairs here in Quezon. I understand the risk involved not only (to themselves) but also to their families," said Board Member Noli Tan, head of the province's barangay league.

Board Member Sonny Ubana said the guerrilla war was a battle for the hearts and minds of the people.

"But the government is fast losing it with every abuse committed by soldiers," Ubana said.

## NPA bastion

Quezon province's Bondoc Peninsula has been the bastion of NPA Guerrilla Front 42 under the Apolonio Mendoza Command, which the military regards as one of the most active NPA units in the country.

In June, in the tri-boundaries of Lopez, Guinayangan and Calauag, soldiers and rebels fought sporadic gunfights that lasted for 10 days, causing residents in four villages to flee. Eleven combatants died in the battles.

Lopez Mayor Fidencio Salumbides denied his town had been militarized.

"Occasionally, there is some fighting in some areas but it does not affect the whole town," he said.

## Uphill fight

The military could be fighting an uphill battle in Lopez in its campaign to win hearts and minds.

"Most of the slain rebels in several encounters in Bicol and as far as Mindoro came from Lopez," Ruby said. "They had long established their base here. Sad to admit, they are well supported by the people. That's why they control the population in the rural areas."

"I was told that this area already teemed with NPA rebels since I was a kid," he said.

## Anti-communist seminar

A different meeting took place north of Manila on Friday.

With a backpack on his lap, former NPA rebel "Ka Delia" sat with some 500 men and women in the gymnasium of the Angeles City National High School in Pampanga for an "anticommunist seminar."

It was the first such seminar held in Angeles since the military launched in June its intensified anti-insurgency drive.

Ka Delia was among eight former rebels present. Others were former rebel supporters, said Col. Ricardo Visaya, head of the 69th Infantry Battalion.

They came from the villages of Capaya, Sapang Libutad, Pulung Cacutud, Pulong Bulu, Margot, Pampang, Sapang Bato, Lourdes Northwest, Cuayan, Anonas and Sto. Cristo.

Their attendance was also a must.

## No longer a rebel

"They were required to attend so that they could understand the programs of the military and government agencies," Visaya said.

Ka Delia said he joined the seminar to convince the military that he was no longer involved in the revolutionary movement. He said he left the NPA after suffering a heart attack in 2003.

Speaking to the participants, Visaya described them as "victims" of communist black propaganda, extortion and threats.

Ka Delia and the others were made to watch a video documentary of the military's campaign to "bring peace" to the country, highlighting what the military said were the sacrifices soldiers had to endure to defend democracy. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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# OPINION

**EDITORIALS**

## From the brink

THE WORLD BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF WHEN the ceasefire in Lebanon began. And the peace dividends began to be felt: the price of oil went down in world markets and so did the price of gold. Refugees have begun swarming back to their homes. While occasional attacks both by Israelis and Hezbollah fighters have taken place since the ceasefire began at 8 a.m. Monday, the truce has generally held.

Both Israel and Hezbollah have adopted victorious postures. UN Security Council Resolution 1701 mandates that an international peacekeeping force, in cooperation with the Lebanese Army, will secure the border with Israel and disarm Hezbollah.

It may take some time for the 15,000 international peacekeepers to be assembled and take up their positions. Until then, Israel intends to retain control of the Lebanese territory it has occupied, withdrawing only "in parallel" with the introduction of the peacekeepers.

Israel will also maintain its blockade of Lebanon. It reserves the right to call in air strikes and artillery barrages if any of its troops get pinned down or any Hezbollah outpost, in Israeli eyes, presents a danger to Israeli security. All this, combined with the as yet undetermined leadership of the peacekeeping force and unresolved questions as to who—the peacekeepers or the Lebanese Army—will actually disarm Hezbollah, means that skepticism about the ceasefire enduring remains high.

Meanwhile, Israel is turning its attention to the Gaza Strip, where it is conducting raids as part of an offensive that has already claimed 175 Palestinian lives and that of one Israeli soldier. This is the other war that began on June 28 even as Israel pursued its attacks on Lebanon. The fighting there may not escalate, but it will almost certainly continue to fester, with additional collateral damage. The latest is two Fox News journalists who have been kidnapped.

The potential for conflict to erupt once more and escalate again, is indeed high. But only days ago, it seemed that the region and with it, the world, was slowly but surely sliding toward irreversible conflict. Once again, peace beat the odds; diplomacy managed to at least temporarily stop the madness.

One American observer, Hugh Hewitt, has proclaimed the ceasefire a triumph of French diplomacy. The French, he says, were clever in engaging the Israelis and Americans in talks and wily enough to be supportive of the two nations. France also quietly maneuvered to get Arab countries to step forward and engage in the diplomatic maneuvering, acting as a foil, then buffer, to the United States and Israel. In the end, after the Arab nations presented their views, France publicly did an about-face, clinching support for the peace plan.

Diplomatic deviousness for the sake of peace is well and good. The benefits of a truce are incalculable—and more so the benefits of a more lasting peace. Having stood at the brink of what former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad grimly called "World War III," the world must continue the call for peace—and looking for the means to ensure that it is maintained.

## Burning fuse

THE PHILIPPINES, TOO, HAD A SOBERING FOREshadowing of what a conflict in the Middle East would entail for Filipinos at home and abroad. The conflict has lighted a fuse that is burning slowly but steadily: questions on the spending of overseas workers' funds, the planning capacity of the government and our economy's ability to reabsorb returning workers, won't go away. Only continued peace offers hope that these questions can be resolved properly, with accountability at home, and increased security for Filipinos abroad and at home.

Now that there's a lull, government officials have begun answering the tough questions they need to answer. That is the first step in accountability. There remains the need to formulate more practical,, cohesive plans, both for registering Filipinos abroad, communicating with them and even evacuating them. The question is whether the truce will result in better strategic planning, or our officials wasting yet another opportunity to rectify past mistakes and shortcomings.

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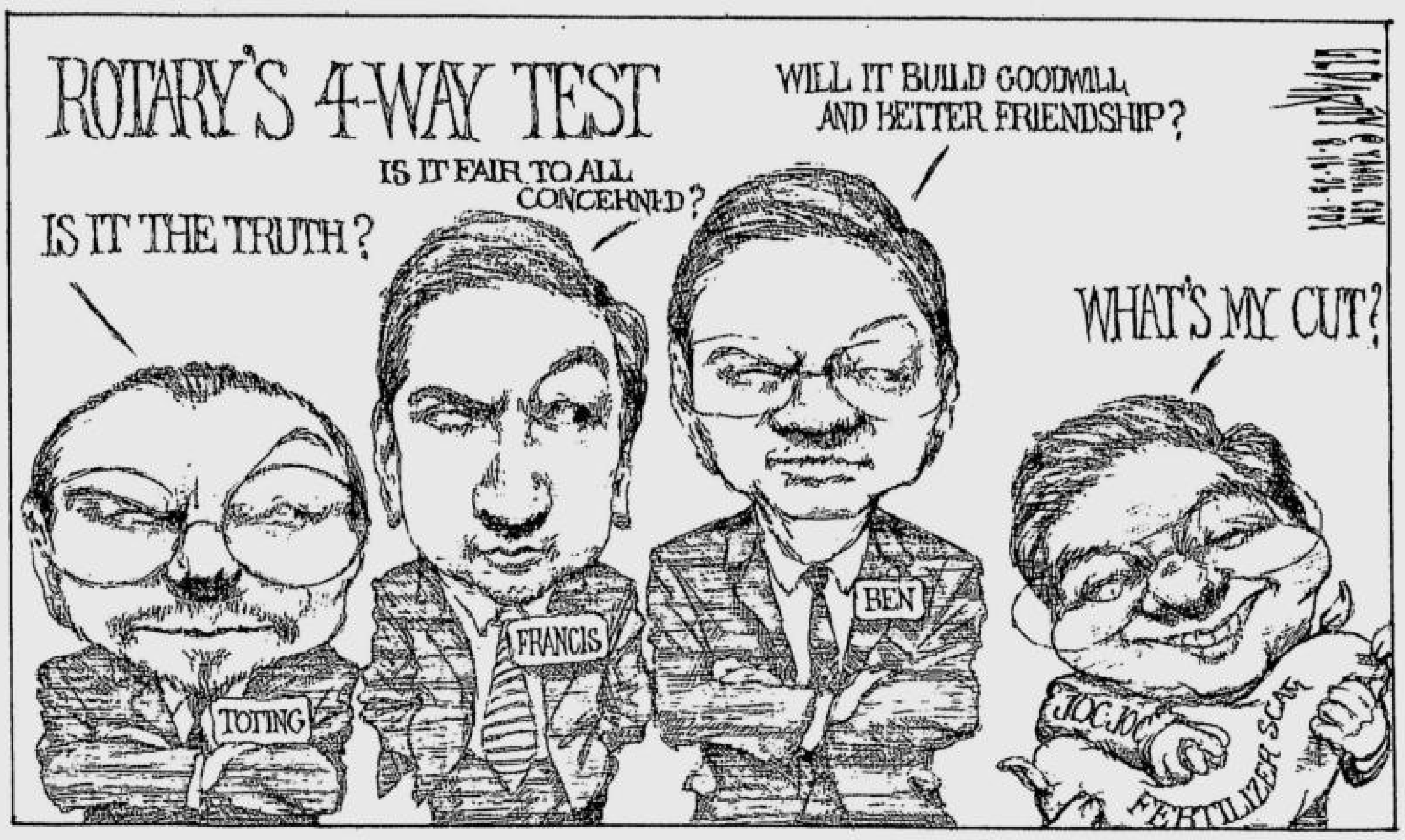

## GFIs are administration's milking cows

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT all available sources of funds were milked by the administration and used in the 2004 elections to ensure Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's election. The P728-million fertilizer fund scam of Jocelyn Bolante and the more than P500 million in Overseas Workers Welfare Administration funds are only two glaring examples.

After repeatedly claiming that the P500-million Owwa funds for Medicare were turned over to PhilHealth only after the elections, Health Secretary Francisco Duque finally admitted to the Senate labor committee headed by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada that the PhilHealth cards were distributed before, during and after the elections. The recipients didn't have to be OFWs who contributed to the Owwa funds. All one needed to qualify for a card was to show he was a registered voter, and get the endorsement of his barangay captain, meaning that the barangay official guaranteed that the voter would vote for GMA.

Asked if those cards are still valid now that the elections are long over, Deputy Owwa Administrator Angelo A. Jimenez, who, along with Estrada was a panelist at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel), replied that he didn't know.

Estrada revealed that Owwa is not the only milking cow of an administration but all the government-controlled financing institutions. For example, one of the biggest spenders of funds was the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (SMDRP). Almost all the government financial institutions put in trust funds totaling billions of pesos into this Smokey Mountain project. But all that money, true to the project's name, went up in smoke as it remains unfinished (in fact, seems to have been abandoned) until now.

The SMDRP is a joint venture of the National Housing Authority (NHA), as the landowner, and R-II builders. The latter was supposed to acquire the land in exchange for developing the former dump in Tondo into a low-cost medium-rise housing and industrial-commercial complex at its own expense. R-II Builders was not able to finish building the project as it ran out of money in 1994 and government agencies were forced to shell out more than P3.1 billion to save it instead of terminating the contract. The Social Security System (SSS) contributed the most money: P1.039 billion. The Owwa put in P835 million. Surprisingly, Pagcor, the most profitable of the government financial institutions, contributed a measly P6 million. Did it guess correctly that the project would be a bust?

The other contributors were: Abot Kaya Pabahay Fund of the Home Guarantee Corp., P350 million; Philippine National Bank (PNB), P300 million; LandBank (LBP), P124 million; and HGC Provident Fund, P30 million. Other financial institutions contributed a combined P473 million.

What happened to all that money? As with a lot of other government funds, nobody seems to know. To be fair to the Arroyo administration, I hasten to add that all these happened during the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos.

* * *

Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson faxed a letter to me commenting on my column last Aug. 11 on the Poro Point port takeover. In fairness to him, here is his letter:

"I would like to assure you that I have no personal interest in what is currently happening at Poro Point. I categorically deny that I want to take over the port management ....

"According to reliable sources, the DENR and PPA decisions to take over the seaport were in response to the blatant disrespect of the Poro Point Industrial Corp. of environmental laws... The officials and residents of San Fernando have actually voiced their concern over the (environmental) hazards posed by the... seaport operations which ... remained unchecked for years.

"A close look into the details of the contract between the BCDA and a private investor, Bulk Handlers Inc., in 1999 will show that Bulk Handlers, through its subsidiary, PPIC, was committed to pay BCDA P50 million yearly. But in 1999, the port was earning revenues which were much higher than P50 million per annum. Why should the BCDA turn over its management of Poro Point when it was doing well? And to make matters even worse, this was done without the requisite COA procedure of a public bidding! The business community is abuzz with talk that somebody very close to former President Estrada wangled this special deal as a special favor.

"Furthermore, BHI was committed to invest P840 million for the port's development, particularly the construction of a 50-hectare industrial park and a commercial center. However, to this date, the PPIC has not undertaken any development project... which is a clear violation of the contract. As a matter of fact, PPIC has accumulated several millions in arrears due the BCDA.

"As a former chairman of the Regional Development Council for Region I, and as presidential adviser for Northern Luzon, I feel it incumbent upon (me) to see to it that such a vital revenue-generating facility like Poro Point Seaport be given all the necessary administrative support to grow and actually expand its service for the economic growth of the region. I sincerely believe that it should be shielded against vested interests and not used as a milking cow for corrupt powerbrokers.

"...Why blame me? I do not have the power over the national government in the performance of (its) mandate. But I would certainly be interested in ferreting out the truth behind this arrangement which to me appears to be disadvantageous to the government right from the start. Who are actually controlling the Poro Point Seaport?"

## Human and right

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

LAST WEEK, THE NOTORIOUS MAJ. GEN. Jovito Palparan was asked by the media if he had not in fact personally declared martial law in the Nueva Ecija-Bulacan corridor of Luzon. The reason for the question was that his soldiers were accosting folk in the streets and making house-to-house searches looking for NPA rebels. The beleaguered folk were being asked to account for themselves in the form of IDs, *cedulas* and other means of identification. This sent them scrambling to city hall to get cedulas, causing the forms to run out.

In reply to the question, Palparan raised his voice and said heatedly: "Why martial law? Aren't people supposed to carry IDs with them?"

That's the quality of mind of the person GMA has tasked to keep people free and safe from their enemies.

Last I looked, in a democracy people were still presumed to be innocent until proven guilty. Of course, people are supposed to carry IDs with them. That is so they can go about their daily transactions and not so they can satisfy the curiosity of cops and soldiers who may accost them at will. Last I looked, in a democracy cops and soldiers may not stop anyone without probable cause and they may not enter houses without a search warrant. Last I looked, in a democracy the equation was not unless people can show proof they are who they say they are, they must be NPA. The equation was, unless the authorities can show proof people are not who they say they are, they must be honest citizens.

It's in a dictatorship, or tyranny or martial law—three words for the same thing—where people are presumed guilty until proven innocent. That is what we now have in concentrated form in Nueva Ecija-Bulacan and in more diluted form in the rest of the country. That is a recipe for a bloodbath. And a bloodbath is what we've been having of late.

You want a more reasonable presumption, try this: Palparan is a mindless thug and a vicious cutthroat unless he can prove himself otherwise.

This was shortly before the London authorities uncovered a plot by terrorists to bomb airplanes going to the United States. Since then, the United States and Britain have gone on a new wave of terrorist alert, which almost inevitably has been picked up by this government. Which threatens to do, to the rest of the country what Palparan is already doing to parts of Luzon.

I am glad that Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. opposes the new terror bills that GMA's hatchet men have promptly laid on the floor of Congress, saying he will not support any terror bill unless today's killings stop. That is the only position any Filipino in his right mind can have. This government's qualification to fight terror is nowhere in evidence. It is not merely that it is incompetent to fight terror, it is that it is directly and obdurately responsible for the terror that grips the land today. Or never mind that abstraction, it is responsible for Palparan. That is terrorism pure and simple.

There is a very real cause for alarm. I saw Benjamin Defensor on TV last weekend, and the things he was saying made my flesh crawl. We have to follow America's lead and take the fight against terrorism very, very seriously, he said, because terrorism is a global threat. One of the things we have to do in that light, he said, is to reexamine our concept of human rights because we have a "parochial view" of it.

At the very least, Defensor seems to have forgotten that one of the most respected institutions in his favorite country, The New York Times, no longer considers his favorite boss, GMA, an ally in the fight against terror. It considers his favorite boss a liability, if not an enemy, in the fight against terror. Her drift toward dictatorship, following in the footsteps of Ferdinand Marcos, it said in a March issue, was not dissuading terror, it was abetting terror.

Pray, what is so parochial about not being stopped on a road or not having soldiers barge into your house in the middle of the night for no other reason than routine inspection? What is so parochial about not being jailed, tortured or killed for no other reason than that you cannot produce a *cedula*? What is so parochial about having the right to assemble, to speak freely, or just plain be able to live and breathe unless you've committed a crime?

It's time we stopped that idiocy about curtailing human rights—or indeed deeming human rights an enemy—each time we talk of fighting terror. Human rights are not an impediment to fighting terror, they are a weapon in fighting terror. No, they are the only way to fight terror. Dictatorial, tyrannical and fascistic ways do not douse terror, they inflame terror. They are the best assurance terror will not go away but riot like the mind of Palparan.

It's plain common sense. The only way you can effectively fight terror is to have the people with you. The military cannot stop terror, only the people can. It is a people working collectively, determinedly and enthusiastically to thwart terror at every turn that can stop terror. You cannot get a people working collectively, determinedly and enthusiastically to thwart terror if you deem them terrorists until they can prove themselves not to be so. You can only get them working commonly, resolutely and angrily to stop you.

Human rights, a democratic order, the sweet air of freedom—three ways of saying the same thing—are the only reason people can have to want to fight terror. You offer as reason for fighting a threat something far worse than the threat itself, and people will prefer the threat itself. You offer as reason for fighting the NPA the kind of world Palparan and GMA represent, the people will embrace the NPA like a long-lost child.

That's why they call them human rights. They are human and they are right.

# How long will the ceasefire last?

**ANALYSIS**

*Amando Doronila*

THE REMAINING 30,000 FILIPINO WORKERS in Lebanon received a reprieve from immediate evacuation after a United Nations-mandated ceasefire ended 34 days of fighting in Lebanon which has killed 1,250 people and wounded thousands, mostly civilians. About 5,000 Filipinos have returned home since the government ordered the repatriation following the outbreak of the conflict on July 12.

The more transcendental impact of the ceasefire is that it ended the carnage and the destruction in Lebanon, caused by Israeli air strikes, as well as in Israeli cities close to the border with southern Lebanon which have been hit by rockets fired by Hezbollah guerrillas. The UN ceasefire resolution kept the conflict from spreading into a wider Middle East war involving at least Iran and Syria, which have supplied Hezbollah with weapons and rockets.

As the guns fell silent last Monday, Israel and Hezbollah both claimed victory, but the results showed that neither side won, though the clearest loser was Lebanon whose people took the heaviest toll from the Israeli bombardment that devastated its infrastructure, homes, productive facilities and its economy.

Hezbollah fired close to 4,000 rockets, supplied by Iran, at Israeli cities and settlements, killing 41 Israeli civilians. The fiercest fighting erupted on Saturday, when 24 Israeli soldiers were killed in combat, the highest single-day toll since the war began. Close to 30,000 Israeli troops were involved in the invasion of southern Lebanon to destroy Hezbollah installations, in the largest Israeli military operation since the 1973 Yum Kippur War.

Whether the ceasefire will hold and for how long—and this is an important issue for Filipino workers in Lebanon—depends on the respect the protagonists will give to the UN resolution which (1) calls on Lebanon and the UN International Force (Unifil) to deploy their forces in southern Lebanon, and on Israel to withdraw all of its forces; (2) calls for disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon; (3) emphasizes the extension of control of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory; (4) calls for the establishment south of the Litani River of an area free from armed personnel other than those of Lebanon and Unifil; and (5) authorized Unifil to ensure its area is not used for hostile activities.

Israeli troops have begun their withdrawal, but this takes some time. This should be matched by the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon. The magnitude of this problem is underscored by the fact that Lebanon, which has been wracked by civil war for three decades, is a weak state and does not have an army strong enough to control armed groups inside its territory. The Hezbollah militia has established an enclave—a state within a state, so to speak—using Lebanese territory as staging ground for attacks on Israel, resulting in Israeli retaliation against Hezbollah facilities. The retaliation has not been marked by sharp, surgical air strikes because Hezbollah facilities and guerrillas are imbedded inside civilian infrastructure. Hezbollah has reportedly been supplied 13,000 rockets by Iran, making it Iran's proxy in the conflict with Israel.

The UN resolution seeks to prevent Syria and Iran from resupplying Hezbollah's rocket arsenal, which the resolution now wants dismantled. The resolution puts Lebanon's government to the test of enforcing its sovereignty on its territory and its weakness is emphasized by the fact that two members of the cabinet represent Hezbollah.

Australian academics specializing in Middle Eastern affairs have pointed out that Hezbollah "is an armed party founded, funded, trained and in part directed by Iranian Revolutionary Guards." According to this thesis, which provides a larger dimension to the Lebanon war, Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah "has echoed the view repeatedly enunciated by both Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iranian President Mahmoud Almadinejad that Israel's existence is intolerable under Islam, and it is a religious obligation to fight until it is destroyed. Hezbollah is also committed to violently spreading the Iranian Islamic Revolution."

The disarming of Hezbollah is therefore a key element in making the ceasefire work, as the basis for a longer-term settlement of the Lebanese conflict. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the week before the ceasefire has fallen short of dismantling the bunkers of Hezbollah to completely put them out of action and to prevent them from being used as platforms for raining missiles on Israeli settlements and cities.

The Israeli government has come under fire at home for not doing enough to wipe out the Hezbollah installations and ordering the land invasion too late. The government of Prime Minister Ehud Elmert has been criticized by hawks for hesitating to launch a land offensive—a hesitation, critics say, that led to Israel's failure to strike a decisive blow against Hezbollah.

Independent reports from Jerusalem say that Israeli commanders were surprised by the level of sophistication of the Hezbollah arsenal, notably its anti-tank missiles which are capable of piercing armor. These accounted for a large percentage of Israeli casualties.

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# Super girls

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

DURING THE CURTAIN CALL AT THE GALA PERformance of Ballet Manila's "La Bayadere," Lisa Macuja-Elizalde walked over to the side of the stage to escort "power couple" Sergey Vikulov of St. Petersburg's Marinsky (Kirov) Theater and Tatiana Udalenkova of the Russian Ballet Academy.

Vikulov and Udalenkova have been visiting ballet masters of Ballet Manila for many years and restaged "La Bayadere" for BM some years ago. More significant, Udalenkova had been Lisa's mentor 20 years ago when she went to Russia as a teenage scholar. And so it was a most touching moment when, after taking her bows with two bouquets in her arms, and then acknowledging the tribute by her young partner, Maxim Chashchegorov who presented his own bouquet to her, Lisa turned around and lay the three bouquets at the feet of Udalenkova and Vikulov.

As thunderous applause echoed through the Aliw Theater, Lisa took her bows with her teachers and then sobbed into her hands, bringing a night of dance, drama, color and wonder to a truly emotional climax.

It was likewise an emotional moment for the women of TOWNS. Searching for ways to raise more funds for the legal expenses of "Nicole," the young woman in the Subic rape trial, the TOWNSwomen were overjoyed when Lisa generously offered 300 tickets to the gala night of "La Bayadere," the proceeds of which would go to the "Justice for Nicole" fund. In her director's notes, Lisa observes, "In a way, Nikiya (the main character in the ballet) is like Nicole, a woman who had a dream that turned her into an innocent victim of society's oppressive forces."

* * *

**AND so it was that last Friday turned out to be a night of artistic fulfillment and social awareness. A night to appreciate fiery dancing and dramatic performances, as well as to reflect on the stories of women—be it of a temple dancer caught in the maelstrom of love and social forces, or of a young woman who carries the burden of a personal injustice that has somehow become a litmus test of Filipino society's attitudes toward women.**

**Still, it was a joy to behold not just Lisa but all the young BM dancers. Only Ballet Manila can stage a full-length ballet of such a demanding classic as "La Bayadere" and do it justice. As the third act unfolded, and the corps slowly filled up the stage, impressing the audience with their line and synchronicity, I felt a twinge of pride singling out the dancers I had first known as young girls now blossoming into accomplished performers. The last act of "La Bayadere" has got to be one of the most technically difficult and challenging in the classic repertoire, and the two leads—Lisa and Chashchegorov—not only rose to the occasion but soared and brought our hearts soaring with them.**

* * *

"BREAKING up is hard to do, but sometimes it can be downright dangerous." So goes the promo material for "My Super Ex-Girlfriend."

No kidding. In the course of romancing and then leaving a mysterious girlfriend, Matt Saunders (Luke Wilson) must endure having his clothes torn off his body, a literally "wham bang" session in bed, having his car sent into orbit in space, and, in a truly amusing sequence, watching a shark fly through his window and then chase him around his apartment.

Such are the "perks" of starting and ending a relationship with a superhero known as "G-Girl," played with endearing vulnerability and truly scary neurosis by Uma Thurman. Tall, willowy and beautiful in a somewhat off-kilter way, Thurman has peppered her body of work with strange and unexpected characters, most famously as the cold-blooded assassin in "Kill Bill." In "Super Ex-Girlfriend," she shows again a willingness to play against type and even make fun of herself.

Director Ivan Reitman keeps things light and breezy, knowing that the movie's kooky premise is all the movie needs to keep the audience's attention. Indeed, it's such a refreshing experience to watch a superhero who's not only female and flies about in designer suits, but is also openly lecherous and undoubtedly unbalanced. "Needy, jealous and controlling, the trifecta," Matt's best friend comments of Jenny/G-Girl. Sadly, you don't have to have the ability to fly to qualify for this deal-ender combination.

* * *

**IF fashion and not flying is your thing, then "The Devil Wears Prada" is the movie for you.**

**Based on the best-seller "tell-all" book that is supposed to be about life in the world's most influential and thus powerful fashion magazine, the movie is, in a way, a coming-of-age story. Young aspiring journalist Andy (Anne Hathaway) learns all about life, love and the history of cerulean sweaters at the hands of Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep), editor in chief of Runway magazine and high priestess of the fashion world. In the process, Andy gets to know not only the extent of the impossible demands Miranda makes on her staff, but also how far she is willing to go to meet those demands and earn a place in the industry.**

**As is her wont, Streep personifies Miranda so thoroughly she makes you forget the supposedly "real" person she is supposed to have been impersonating. In moments, she is even able to make the haughty Miranda appear vulnerable, while revealing the cold steel beneath that makes it impossible for her to really connect with another.**

**Hathaway sympathetically portrays both innocence and hard-bitten drive, and legendary stylist Pat Fields outfits her in truly breathtaking ensembles.**

**"I wish I had the ability to layer!" my daughter sighed at movie's end. That it could make us care about such things shows just how powerful the movie—and the fashion world—can be.**

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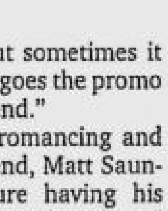
# Wakes

**LOOKING BACK**



*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

A GOOD FRIEND WAS ORPHANED RECENTLY and one can only imagine the pain of losing not one but both parents within months of each other.

I have been going to a number of wakes lately and have been observing the ways in which we handle grief. For most people one of the ways to let off steam is to cry, wail or talk about it. How many times do bereaved relatives have to retell the manner of death and other sordid details for each new visitor who comes in to offer condolences? Foreigners may find this intrusive or even insensitive, but for many Filipinos it is a way to cope.

Then there is card-playing and muted merriment. Food and drinks are served, from the simplest *chichiria* (traditionally *butong pakwan*) to the most elaborate meals.

We had the latter when my mother passed away. Her favorite caterer arrived and set up everything without our bidding. When we got the menu for three days (full breakfast, lunch and dinner with *lugao* and other *merienda* items round the clock together with bottomless coffee), we started to tick half of the items off, complaining it was just too much. But the caterer said, "Your mother ordered this when she was alive. We are just complying." So we shrugged our shoulders and sighed: in life and even in death, Mom still calls the shots.

One 16th-century friar account described a funeral in Luzon. What I found fascinating was that the mourners stayed awake at night by chatting and playing games. The bier was well lighted with torches because people believed that an *aswang* would come and take the body away.

The wake was a way to keep the *aswang* away and we continue this practice. We have electric lights, card games, food and lively conversation to keep the bereaved company. Are we continuing a long tradition while forgetting what its original purpose was?

While reading the Asean reports on "Forms of Courtesy Among Asean Member Countries" with research conducted from 1982-1991, it dawned on me that one of the reasons Filipinos have a hard time becoming a nation is that we are taught from childhood that we have "*isang bansa, isang diwa*" without first coming to terms with our ethno-linguistic and cultural differences. Before we start to become a nation, we have to know how many different cultures we have in our archipelago of thousands of islands. The challenge is how to weave all these into a tapestry that is one nation.

The Malaysian and Singaporean reports were most engaging because they helped me to see how funerals in those countries with their different cultural mixes compared with our own. When we go to wakes or funerals, black is the color of choice, or perhaps even white, but red is a no-no. Singaporean Chinese wear dull colors to a wake, and red, yellow and gold are taboo. White is only worn if you are close to the dead or the bereaved and black is reserved for immediate family. The visitors pay their respects, express their condolences and, like we do here, they are served food and drink and they linger for a while, perhaps long enough to play a round of mahjong. In Manila, there are streets that almost always have wakes, and the cynical claim that this is an excuse to gamble. Remember the woman who claimed the body of a complete stranger after the "Wowowee" tragedy and brought this to Manila so they could have a few nights of legal gambling? How low can one get?

Singaporean Chinese leaving a wake are given two pieces of red thread to ward off the pollution of death. These threads are wrapped around a button and thrown away later. In the Philippines, you are not allowed to take away any food or drink from a wake. The relatives of the bereaved are not allowed to bid you farewell or take you to the door. Some people try to confuse and lose death by going some place else before returning home. I used to be advised to go to a convenience store and buy something to eat after a wake so that death would not follow me home. But what about the poor convenience store? Some people have also advised me that after going to a wake, I should take a shower or wash with water mixed with pomelo leaves.

Expression of courtesy like "Thank you," "How are you" and "Good luck" are not said during wakes and funerals. It is taboo to say "Come again" or "See you again," because that would be an invitation for death.

Singaporean Malays have different customs because the dead has to be buried within six hours. No elaborate and long wakes for them, which is very considerate. The body is wrapped loosely in cloth. No cremation for them because they believe the body will be resurrected at some future date. How can you breathe life back into a handful of ash? The funeral shroud has to be easy to shed so that when the body is resurrected, it will not have a hard time getting up. What happens to us who have been embalmed, with our vital organs removed?

Singaporean Indians do not greet each other when they visit the house of a deceased. The mood is solemn and silent. No food or drink is served, although in some places these are placed outside the house rather than inside. No musical entertainment, TV or parlor games are allowed.

But all these are changing because the way of life is fast changing. Looking at basic Philippine culture and comparing it with that of our neighbors are one way of knowing each other and, more importantly, finding ourselves.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu*

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# Lived lives

**PINOY KASI**

*Michael L. Tan*

WE HEAR AIDS AND THEN WE THINK DEATH.

The death toll has indeed been tremendous: some 25 million people over the last three decades or so, with about 3 million each year.

I'm writing this in Toronto, working as part of the team of rapporteurs for the 16th International AIDS Conference and what's so striking is that the talk is all about living, about saving lives, yes, but more so about living as fully as possible.

There's the almost 40 million people who are infected with HIV, many of whom now have access to medicines which do not cure them but which can keep them alive for many years. Then there are several more hundred million people who may not necessarily have HIV but whose lives intersect with those already affected by HIV. This conference has been an opportunity for many of the stories and experiences to emerge, and I thought it's something I should share with you.

### Vulnerability

I got the idea for today's column while listening to Louise Binder, a Canadian lawyer who is herself HIV positive. She had started her speech with a simple proposal: "Where power resides, the virus recedes; where there is no power, the virus thrives." And her assertion is that the virus thrives today in large part because women lack power.

Binder's point was that governments and NGOs need to begin to listen to the stories of women, what she called lived experiences, to be able to plan more realistic and relevant HIV prevention programs. Her speech was quite emotional, as she named numerous examples of how women's disempowerment makes them more vulnerable for HIV infection. One was particularly striking: a woman's fear of violence that can be inflicted by men prevents her from protecting herself.

That may seem so self-evident, yet I've seen so many instances where people fail to see the crucial link. I'll give one local example:

Recently, we witnessed the flak over sex education in high schools, with the proposal, from conservatives, that families should take care of sex education. Yet we know that many parents, and even teachers, wouldn't know what to discuss as sex education. If it were just sex, it'd actually be simple enough but adults, precisely because conservatives have blocked their own sex and sexuality education all these years, wouldn't know what to discuss. Many very educated, very intelligent people cling to amazing misconceptions about sex and sexuality.

What the conservatives prefer to cling to is the illusion that our young are blissfully innocent, and need to be kept in that virginal state. Yet, they are the first ones to complain as well about sex in mass media, sex in advertisements, sex in malls. They recognize the threats, but can't see how those threats are amplified by denying our young access to sexuality education, and I mean here teaching girls about their rights, and boys respect for women.

### Saving lives

Girls' vulnerability translates into disturbing figures. By age 20, one out of every four Filipinas are already bearing children. If you look at the statistics for HIV infection in the Philippines, the largest percentages for females are found in the younger age groups, more or less 15 to 29 years, while in men most of the infections occur among those in their 30s.

Young girls are made vulnerable by gender and age, and this is worsened by other social variables, including class, religious background, even ethnicity.

I've talked with Filipinas who have been infected with HIV, and in most cases, their infection is related to disempowerment. There was one who was infected by her husband, a foreigner who was already HIV positive at the time of their marriage but didn't tell her. Another one was recruited as a factory worker for a neighboring Southeast Asian country, but was instead forced into sex work. Several were wives of seafarers, whose husbands were infected while overseas, and then passed on the virus to them. Most of them said that until they themselves were infected, they had not really known much about HIV/AIDS, simply because there's so little in the mass media other than sensationalistic news.

In our circumstances, sex workers may actually be more empowered than wives. The former know more about HIV/AIDS and can negotiate with their clients to use condoms, while a wife of a philanderer, even one who boasts about his extramarital relationships, cannot ask him to use condoms.

Bill Gates, who delivered one of the opening speeches at the conference, talked about the need to have "tools that allow women to protect themselves. . . No matter where she lives, who she is, or what she does, a woman should never need her partner's permission to save her own life."

Unfortunately, in the Philippines, that is the case.

### Helping themselves

The conference does show, though, how women are helping each other to fight cultural and structural constraints. Binder had three examples. The first was the research on vaginal microbicides, chemicals that women might be able to use during sex to kill HIV that the male might be transmitting. The research is still ongoing, largely pushed by women's groups. More importantly, this was initiated when, in a 1991 AIDS conference, a Ugandan woman asked why, if we could put men on the moon, women still didn't have anything to protect themselves from infections by their male partners.

A second example Binder gave came from Rwanda, where a few years back there was a brutal civil war that included thousands of rape incidents, many of which resulted in women becoming HIV infected. The women themselves eventually organized programs for trauma counseling, access to HIV medicines. . .and more. They now have projects for child care and income generation.

A third example Binder gave was a program in South Africa that works to prevent HIV by preventing domestic violence. The project has a microfinance component, based on the premise that women who have access to economic resources can more easily move out of an abusive relationship.

All of these cases draw from women's own lives, and women's own efforts to address their problems. But lest people think empowerment comes only with huge projects, I did want to say my favorite example has been a program involving grandmothers. Yup, *lolas* from Africa.

The AIDS pandemic has killed many young couples who leave behind orphans. This is where the grandmothers come in, taking up their grandchildren. Eventually, some Canadian grandmothers linked up with their counterparts in Africa for a support program. At the conference, the grandmothers gave a cultural performance and I have to tell you, when they broke out singing "We Shall Overcome," you could feel it wasn't a song wishing for the future. It was a song that spoke of their own lived lives, of having overcome.

You can "attend" the Toronto conference, including listening to some of the sessions live, by visiting www.aids2006.org.

# Soldiers are also human

JULIAN ARISTON GONZALVEZ'S LETTER, titled "Filipino peacekeepers deserve their fair share of benefits" (PDI, 6/2/06) makes me wonder if President Macapagal-Arroyo still upholds Executive Order 97.

In 2002, she adopted the Policy Framework and Guidelines for Philippine Participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations, with Sec. VI.6 proclaiming that "(t)he Philippine Government shall support all initiatives to minimize and remove disparities in pay scales between Philippine military personnel and civilian police and those of international contingents deployed in UN peace operations."

Although newspaper columnists have written about the United States, United Kingdom, France, Canada and Australia giving extra allowances to their peacekeeping contingents, keeping up with the troops-contributing Joneses is not even the issue here. The issue is the compensation that the Filipino peacekeepers deserve, according to the calculation of the United Nations. Equal pay for equal work.

Up to now, long after the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, no word on Gonzalvez's letter has been heard from the commander in chief.

Maybe, Ms Arroyo is busy planning to scrap the executive order, especially now that the Philippine military has hinted about some financial problems vis-à-vis its international deployments. If this is so, then she should also consider putting a stop to our practice of contributing troops for UN peacekeeping missions and she should just be satisfied with our country's good standing as a UN member that pays its membership dues on time.

Not that we refuse to be charitable. But a struggling Third World country like ours cannot afford that kind of participation in such UN operations.

For the time being, we should be hearing from the commander in chief herself about how she is going to address the plight of her troops who find no other hope but in a fair and swift executive action.

Isn't she aware that peacekeeping forces are due to come home within a few weeks? Or must we wait for December when the world celebrates the 58th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and when the appeal for the soldiers' case has better chances of being heard?

Ms Arroyo should consider that her soldiers are also entitled "to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary by other means of social protection." Or does Ms Arroyo think that respect for human rights is a privilege that she can give and take at whim?

The soldier is a human being, too. Isn't he?

**—KATHARINA M. DUENAS,**
**kathmandu1982@yahoo.com**

# No to boxing as PE option in schools

I FULLY AGREE WITH EDUCATION UNDERsecretary Fe Hidalgo. ("No boxing in schools, says DepEd," PDI, 8/8/06)

Boxing, even as a sport, should be condemned for its violence. The concept of winning by hitting (to the point of knocking out) the other person is inhuman. Boys should not be encouraged to learn the "skill" of hitting and harming another person.

Hitting the head of a person poses a danger to his health, even his life. It is not uncommon to hear of people who ended up with brain injuries after getting battered on the head during sports contests.

The Department of Education should not allow boxing in Physical Education classes not only because it has no resources to teach it but also because the sport puts to risk a person's physical well-being and safety, and it violates decency.

**—SR. PILAR VERZOSA, RGS,**
**Pro-Life Philippines Foundation Inc.,**
**Good Shepherd Compound,**
**1043 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City 1108**

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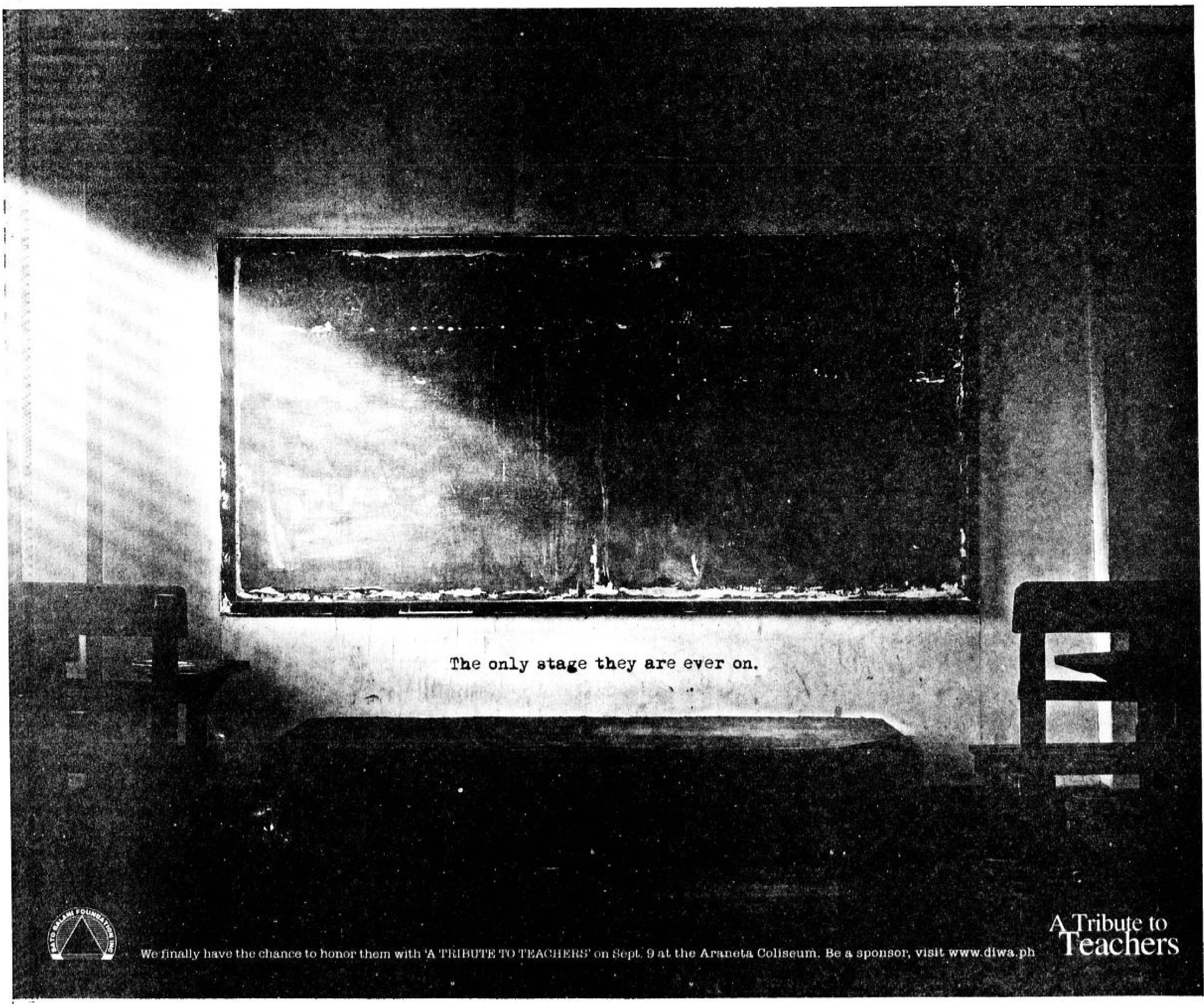
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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

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# Review centers unfazed by scandal

**By Vincent Cabreza**
*Baguio City*

BAGUIO'S NURSING REVIEW centers kept a clear distance from the cheating scandal that implicated one of their peers during this year's licensure examinations.

But one of them made its opinion about the controversy apparent through newspaper advertisements that promised clients "no leakages."

Royal Pentagon Review Specialists Inc. began publishing its ads weeks after news broke out that examinees wearing jackets of its competitor, R.A. Gapuz Review Center, had been seen distributing photocopies of 18-page test leakages during the June 11-12 exams.

Two weeks ago, Pentagon's five owners changed tactics, publishing full-page ads to assure their clients that the scandal should not discourage them and their parents from pursuing their dreams.

## More bookings

Gilbert Pedro, Pentagon marketing coordinator, said the ads were meant to take advantage of the sudden rise in clients. "The scandal did not break us down. It drove more people to come and book reservations at many Baguio-based review centers," he said.

At least eight of the 11 review centers in Northern Luzon that service nursing graduates report 10-percent increases in booking schedules, according to officials of the Commission on Higher Education and the Professional Regulation Commission, which runs the licensing tests.

Pedro said Pentagon's share of the pie was roughly 800 of some 20,000 graduates who trooped to Baguio from as far as the Ilocos provinces, Pangasinan and Cagayan Valley. Gapuz owns the largest share outside Metro Manila.

Dr. Mary Grace Lacanaria, chapter president of the Association of Deans of Philippine Nursing Schools, and other nursing schools have proposed a bill that would regulate all review center operations.

"Their existence simply promotes the idea that nursing schools are not enough," said Dr. Erlinda Palaganas, a former Ilocos governor of the Philippine Nurses Association.

Review centers flourished, however, from ties with nursing schools, said Lacanaria, until CHEd issued a circular last year barring schools from sending their graduates to preferred review centers.

The two-year-old Pentagon is one of Baguio's youngest review centers that saw the potentials of bringing its business to the provinces, instead of concentrating in Metro Manila.

"We have marketed strictly by word of mouth so the circular won't affect us," said Pedro.

Pentagon is owned by Associate Solicitor

REVIEW/ A16

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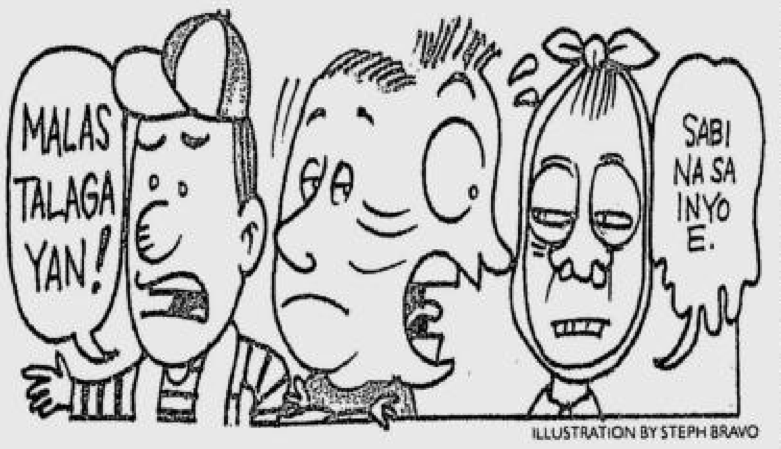
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ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

# Benguet folk avoid 'curse of the hearse'

**By Delmar Cariño**
*La Trinidad, Benguet*

AN INDIGENOUS belief on the forbidden is making the transport of a dead person as cargo in Benguet difficult.

The elders consider taboo the bringing home of a dead relative or neighbor by bus, jeepney, truck, car or any other ordinary vehicle. To do so would mean breach of a belief that, more often than not, would bring bad luck to the vehicle or the driver.

Benguet's 13 mayors recently were disturbed by this view after the only cargo van for the dead of the capital town of La Trinidad suffered a serious mechanical breakdown.

Mayor Nestor Fongwan, president of the League of Municipal Mayors, said the Mitsubishi Delica van, which conked out last month, had been the sole transport vehicle for the dead since 2001, following several requests for help from residents.

"We could not refuse the relatives of the dead who came to us and asked for help to provide a ferry," he said.

"Some of the people died here but their relatives wanted to bring them to their hometown. Some died at the Benguet General Hospital," Fongwan said. "Their relatives, however, did not have vehicles or they just could not afford hiring the services of a hearse."

But the main reason it was difficult to secure a cargo vehicle is the taboo that prevented owners from volunteering their vehicles, he said.

It is "*abig*," which meant that it is not good, or that it is prohibited, to carry the dead in a vehicle unless the vehicle had already transported one, said Isikias Picpican, a socioanthropology researcher and instructor at the Saint Louis University (SLU) in Baguio City.

## Traditional beliefs

"The *abig* forms part of the province's traditional beliefs that prescribe norms of social conduct or behavior," he said.

These social limitations are usually expressed in the "*lawa*" or the forbidden, said Picpican, who is also the SLU's' museum curator.

When a vehicle is used for the dead due to unavoidable circumstances, he said, a ritual marked by the butcher of animals must be held "to cleanse the vehicle of bad luck or to appease the spirits or the unseen."

Dexter Esko, one of five drivers who had driven La Trinidad's cargo van, said the vehicle had ferried more than 200 bodies since 2001.

"We have brought bodies to Kapangan, Mankayan, Buguias and the other towns," he said.

The van was bought in an auction at the Subic Bay Freeport in 1998, a few months after Fongwan was elected to his first term, Esko said.

"The van was first used as a service vehicle for the local government, but the numerous requests that led to the transport of bodies forced the van to become as the town's official hearse," he said.

Esko said hearses offered by funeral parlors, unlike the van, could not traverse the province's mountainous terrain due to their low chassis. The van has sliding doors on both sides, making it easy to bring in a body, he said.

In a recent mayors' meeting, Fongwan said the belief in the *abig* prompted the 13 Benguet towns to share the cost of acquiring a cargo van for the dead to be used by all towns.

Itogon Mayor Mario Godio agreed. "So that we will not have problems in the future, we better buy a van and make it as our official hearse," he said.

The mayors asked Benguet Rep. Samuel Dangwa to allot part of his Priority Development Assistance Fund for the acquisition of the van.

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# Review centers unfazed by scandal

From page A15

Glenn Luansing of the Office of the Solicitor General, and Ferdinand Valdez, Gerardo Andamo, Jerome Balisnomo and Michael Jimenez, all nurses.

## Opportunities

Their increased business suggests that more aspiring nurses in the provinces still see more opportunities in submitting to a "flawed nursing system" so they can find jobs abroad, according to an official of another review center, which helped Baguio nursing schools pursue the cheating exposé.

Pedro himself is awaiting a call for an overseas assignment.

"Nothing has been proven, but ideally, the fallout from the scandal should allow the smaller review centers to draw the clients who leave R.A. Gapuz," he said.

Pentagon's owners said the scandal would only strengthen Gapuz's hold on the market.

Ricarte "Ray" Gapuz, founder of the review center named after him, said as much last month when he lectured before high school students about "*diskarte*" or the art of mastering a situation during the 1st Go Negosyo program for teenagers in Baguio.

Program organizers described Gapuz to his audience as one of the country's success icons for helping pioneer the nursing review trade in 1994.

Instead of pursuing a nursing career, they said, Gapuz decided to convert his talent as an inspirational speaker into an enterprise.

Gapuz worked those skills overtime by singing love songs and clowning before the audience, in between stories and lectures about his lower middle-class background, his struggle to survive on a weekly P70 allowance in the University of Sto. Tomas, and how he used his wits to get by.

He said he began his business in a small room in Dagupan City, and had only three clients when it opened—a far cry in June when he spoke to nursing students who filled the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City and the Baguio Convention Center.

## Scandal

During the Go Negosyo forum, a teacher asked Gapuz about the scandal. Gapuz said the PRC had already cleared his firm.

"The PRC already issued a resolution that they did not find us involved [in the cheating] that happened in Baguio where I live," he said.

"I remember them ask me, '*Bakit ikaw, Ray, iyong isinangkot?* (Why were you, Ray, implicated?)' You know, I own 40 to 50 percent of the market share. *Ibig sabihin, halos lahat ng* board exams, *bale* four *ay sa amin* (That means, for every board exam, four of the examinees are our clients)," he said.

Gapuz said the PRC ruled that the exposé was a result of intense industry competition.

Pedro said this observation was borne out by the fact that many nursing schools had started charging extra fees from students to finance in-house review operations.

Gapuz said circumstantial evidence linking one of their clients to the photocopied leakages proved nothing because the leaked documents did not have his firm's logo and bore the handwriting of a nursing student.

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# Across the NATION

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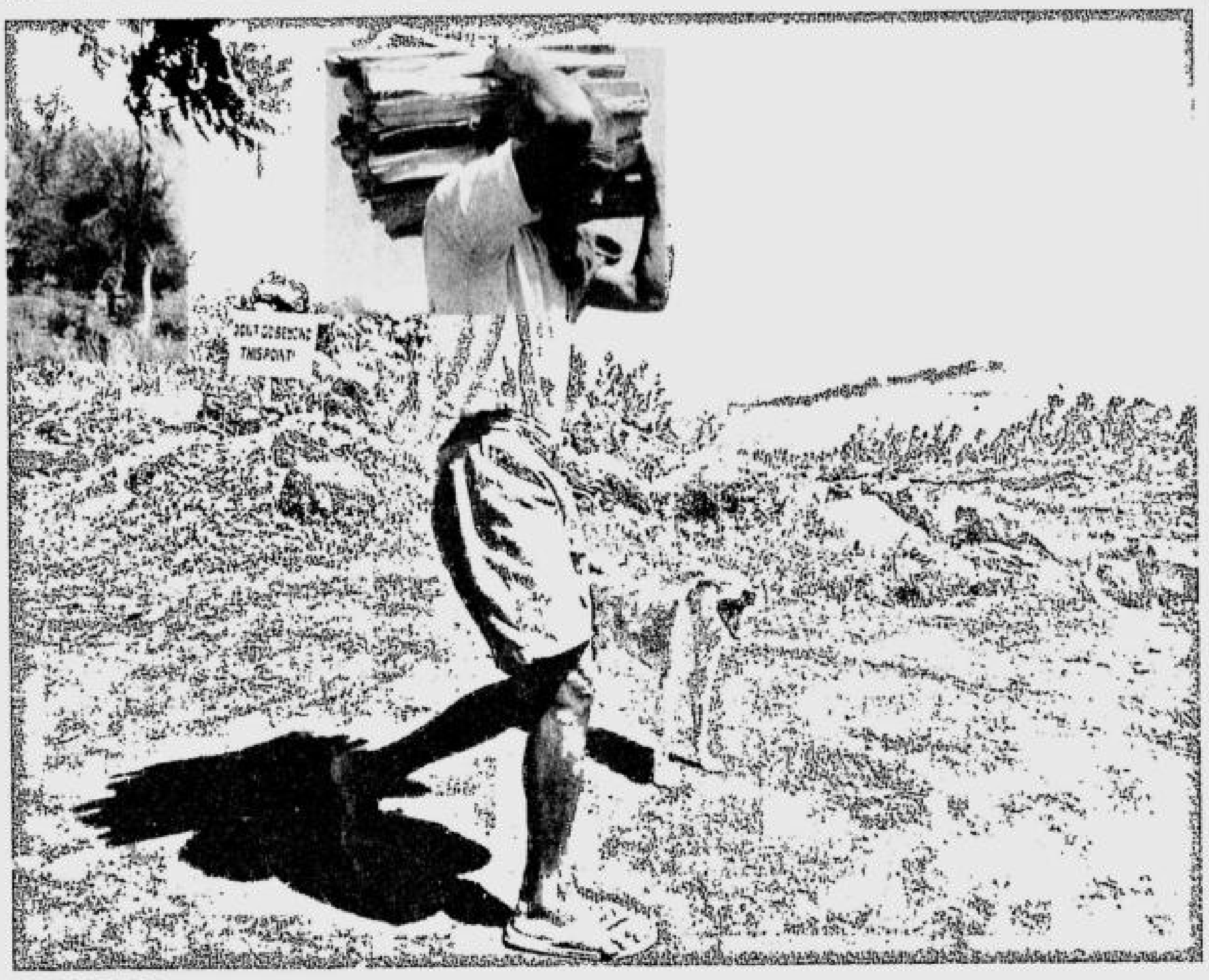
# NPAs burn ex-comrades' cargo truck



**SURVIVOR**
**A farmer goes about his daily routine, collecting firewood that he sells for a living, in Barangay Bonga close to the perimeters of the 8-km danger zone that was declared to keep people away from harm in case of a major eruption of Mayon.**
EDWIN BACASMAS

**By Carla P. Gomez**
*Inquirer Visayas*

BACOLOD CITY—NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY REbels set fire on Sunday to a truck loaded with bananas and owned by a company managed by their former comrades in Barangay Tabunak, Toboso, Negros Occidental, 144.5 km north of here.

The Toyota Commando truck is owned by Alter Trade Corp. (ATC), which is managed by former members of the NPA who went into the business of exporting *muscovado* sugar and bananas, police said.

ATC president Norma Mugar said the attack paralyzed company operations as the vehicle served as its "concrete link" to poor banana growers.

"It is a symbol of the growers' hope for a better life from their farming activities," she said.

ATC buys bananas worth P25,000 from Toboso and Calatrava growers, The fruits are picked up twice a month, she said.

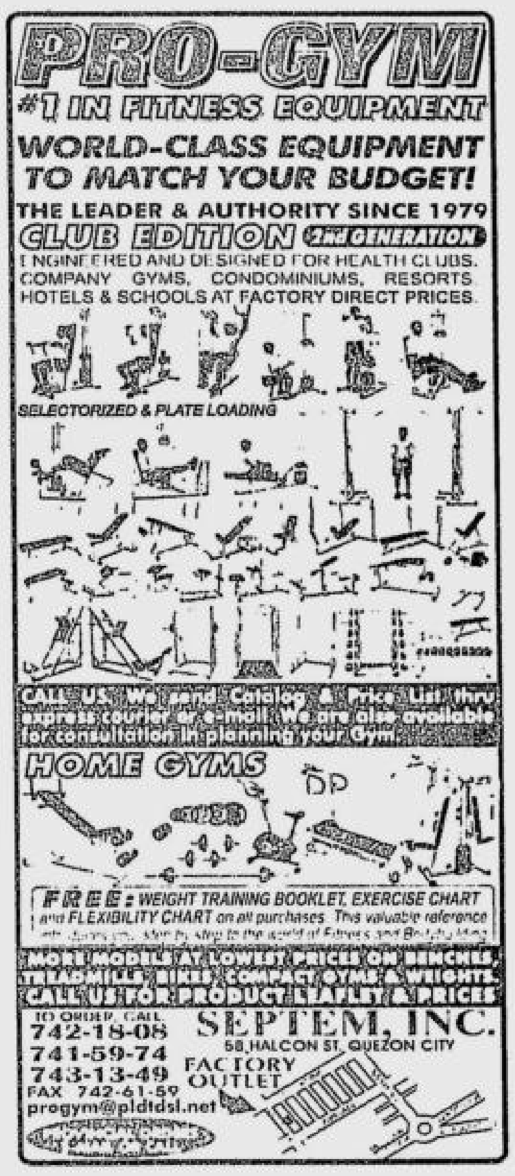
The truck, driven by Noel Bautista, was on its way to Sitio Bato-Bato, Barangay Tabunak, Toboso, when it was flagged down by three unidentified men armed with handguns, according to Lt. Col. Jess Manangquil, head of the Army's 11th Infantry Battalion based in Negros Occidental.

Manangquil said the truck was driven to an isolated area where the three were joined by about 20 of their comrades.

The rebels poured gasoline on the truck and set it on fire, Manangquil said.

Senior Insp. Romeo Leyte, Toboso police chief, said Bautista and his helper, identified as Ondo Tejones, were unharmed.

In an appeal to priest-turned-rebel Frank Fernandez, alleged head of the Communist Party of the Philippines in Negros, Mugar said, "Please have pity on them (banana growers), especially in these times of economic crisis."



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# Probe of political pressure on Poro Pt. takeover urged

DAGUPAN CITY—TENSION REMAINS HIGH at the Poro Point seaport in San Fernando City, La Union as businessmen, with ships docked at the port, continue to suffer millions of pesos in losses.

Port operators appealed to Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago to include in her investigation the political pressure behind the government's attempt to take over the port.

The businessmen sought a return to normal operations to prevent further losses from demurrage fees.

One of the suffering companies is Soil Tech Agricultural Products Corp., which pays P179,725 daily in demurrage fee for a vessel docked at the pier since Aug. 4 with fertilizer cargo. The firm was forced to send its other vessels to the Subic Bay Freeport.

Rene Venturina, Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) port manager, said some of those involved in the takeover bid were reviving charges that PPIC was collecting higher fees.

"That issue, brought out by the Bases Conversion Development Authority in 2000, was already addressed long ago," he said. PPIC has a 25-year lease contract with the BCDA to operate the port.

"It used to take seven to 10 days to unload 5,000 metric tons of cargo, but it takes us only three to four days. We take care of cargo handling because it is [the port's] heart and soul. If your services are lousy, they won't go to your port," Venturina said.

In a statement, PPIC said it was appealing to Santiago to help ferret out the truth behind the takeover.

Venturina said the firm was ready to present evidence, documents and footage to prove that the environmental violations that it was being accused of were all wrong and were just meant to justify the takeover.

Santiago described the takeover as "illegal, immoral and reminiscent of a police state."

Brigido Dulay, PPIC legal counsel, said in the statement that the Senate should also investigate revelations made by Arnel Casanova, BCDA legal counsel, about political pressure on him to reverse his study affirming that the lease contract was valid and the takeover of the port had no basis.

Dulay cited records purportedly showing that Casanova had revealed that pressure to BCDA president Narciso Abaya.

In a memorandum to Abaya and BCDA chair Filadelfo Singson-Rojas, a cousin of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Casanova said a BCDA director called and visited him several times to pressure him to reverse the results of his study.

Casanova, in his memorandum, said the official told him that the instruction came "from a very influential person."

Dulay said it was important that the Senate investigation ferret out the identity of the "very influential person."

Singson, who was key to the rise to power of President Macapagal-Arroyo, has repeatedly denied involvement in the takeover.

The regional Department of Environment and Natural Resources also said it had no hidden agenda in enforcing a cease-and-desist order (CDO) on port operations.

PPIC said the CDO was issued shortly after a court in San Fernando stopped the takeover bid. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

# Water contamination in Mayon shelters feared

LEGAZPI CITY—HEALTH OFFIcials in Albay are closely monitoring water systems in shelters for Mayon evacuees after an evacuation center in Barangay Taladong in Camalig, Albay was found to be contaminated with coliform.

Coliform is a bacteria abundant in feces of warm-blooded animals and humans.

Provincial health officer Dr. Luis Mendoza said a water purifier was installed at the Taladong Elementary School last week to provide safe drinking water for the evacuees.

He said villagers were being educated on the proper handling of water sources while chlorination is being undertaken in evacuation centers.

"Rapid assessment teams go around the evacuation centers everyday to inspect the health status in evacuation centers," Mendoza said.

As of yesterday, the Office of Civil Defense reported 9,389 families, or 43,951 persons from 32 villages, are housed in 28 evacuation centers, mostly public schools.

Due to congestion in these government-run shelters, the health office is also keeping watch on the possible spread of 10 communicable diseases.

Mendoza said dengue is also haunting the evacuation centers.

Mayon exploded four times in the past 24 hours, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) yesterday.

Soldiers who were sent to prevent entry into the 8-km danger zone reported seeing lava barely 1.5 km from the main road in the villages of Bonga and Mabinit.

Volcanologists said the lava trail was 6.3-km long if measured from the air.

Mayon had already released 35 million cubic meters of lava. In the 1993 eruption, it released 45 million cubic meters of lava, according to volcanologists.

The Bureau of Customs offered to release 60 metric tons of used clothes and canned goods to the evacuees. These are items seized on suspicion they were smuggled.

Napoleon Morales, customs chief, said his bureau has informed the social welfare department of the offer. *Ephraim Aguilar and Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

# Tighter seaport security

BATANGAS CITY—Authorities ordered tighter security in seaports nationwide following a worldwide terror alert that was prompted by the discovery of a plot to set off explosives in and bring down as many as 10 airplanes over United States skies.

Oscar Sevilla, Philippine Ports Authority general manager, said more security personnel, bomb sniffing dogs and baggage scanners would be put in place in all seaports.

"We will make sure that all baggage will be individually checked and that all safeguards are in place," he said. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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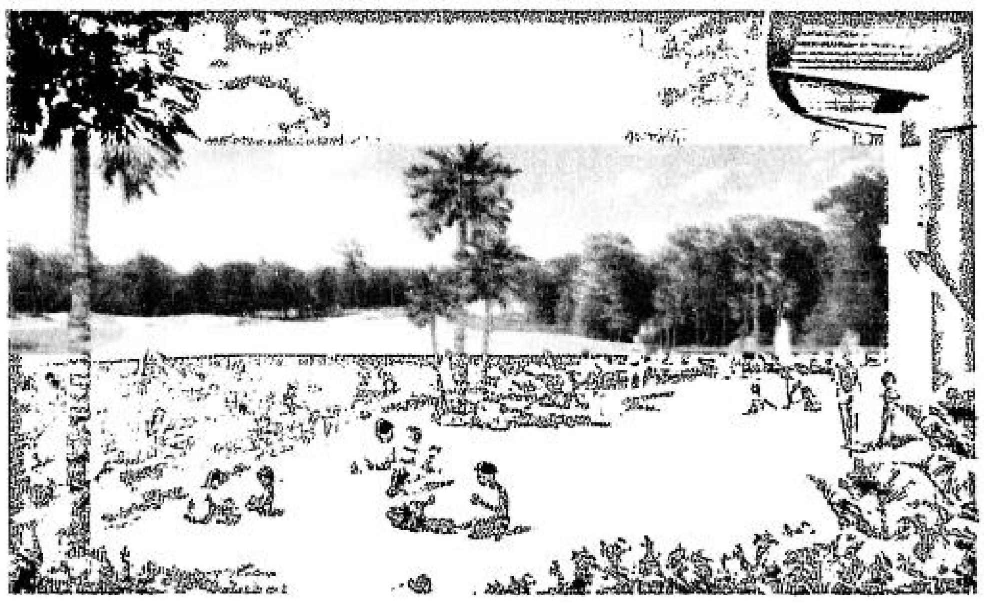

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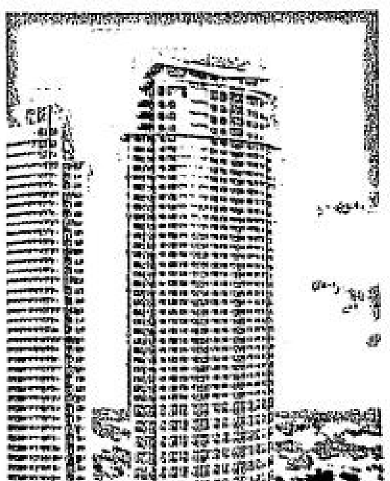

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**TROPICAL** fishes found in marine life-rich waters of the country find their way in aquariums here and abroad.

AP

# Munti fishermen turn to aquarium fish as livelihood

## Alternative project tested in Sucat area

**By Jocelyn R. Uy**

HUNDREDS OF FISHERMEN IN Muntinlupa City will soon have other fish to fry, in a manner of speaking.

The city government has introduced an aquarium fish-breeding project to provide fishermen in Barangay Sucat with an alternative source of income.

Instead of *bangus* (milkfish), they will be raising Japanese Koi, angelfish, goldfish, guppies, mollies and fighting fish.

### Assistance

The Muntinlupa government will provide the aquarium fish while other government agencies, like the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and Department and Bioresearch, a private company, will supply technical assistance to fishermen.

Ariel Dolleton, the city's Lake Management Office head, said in an interview that the project would be pilot-tested in the Sucat portion of Laguna de Bay where several fish nets have already been set up exclusively for the fish.

Dolleton said it would take at least three to six months before the fish are big enough to be sold.

### Fish kill

A massive fish kill two months ago prompted the city government to launch the project to help fishermen affected by the incident.

Dolleton said roughly 6,000 kilos of big head carps, milkfish, *tilapia* and catfish died of oxygen depletion caused by the significant level of waste from houses along the Buli-Sucat River.

"The project is a potential source of income for fishermen since there is a high demand for aquarium fish now. The fishes could also be exported," he told the INQUIRER.

The export of aquarium fish is a multimillion dollar industry worldwide.

# The Real Causes of WOMEN'S HAIRLOSS

Hair can enhance or ruin a woman's appearance. Deemed her "crowning glory," thick, healthy, lush strands that frame a woman's face can emphasize her beauty and youth. On the contrary, hair loss can do the exact opposite. It can make a woman appear older and less attractive, which can cause low self-esteem, depression and isolation.

There are various triggers of women's baldness. Hormonal changes by far have the biggest impact since they stimulate hair growth *and* cause the actual hairloss. Female Pattern Baldness (or Androgenetic alopecia) is a reaction to male hormones in the body. It is an inherited sensitivity to the effects of male hormones (androgens) on scalp hair follicles.

Stress can also be a contributing factor to women's hairloss. This leads to a severe tension in the scalp, affecting the supply of essential nutrition required for the healthy growth of hair. Hair damage from the use of hair styling treatments and other chemicals also affects the hair condition, making the hair strands weak and causing them to break.

Svenson utilizes various treatments to help women avoid hairloss from occurring. In the case of hairloss that has already started, Svenson also has solutions to prevent it from progressing to more advanced hairloss. With Svenson, women not only get their hair back, they also look younger and better. Call Svenson today at 892-HAIR (4247) for a free consultation.

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**BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

(No 008-06)

The METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT (MRWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ALUMINUM SULFATE
Location : Lawaan WTP, Lawaan, Roxas City
Brief Description : ALUMINUM SULFATE 17% HYDRATE
Approved Budget for the Contract : Php 2,550,000.00
Source of Funding : OPERATING BUDGET CALENDAR YEAR FOR 2006
Contract Duration : 60 CALENDAR DAYS
Delivery Period : 60 CALENDAR DAYS

The Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check, will be opened. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations A (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Advertisement | August 14 – 28, 2006 |
| 2. Issuance of Bid Documents | August 29 to September 8, 2006 |
| 3. Pre-bid Conference | September 12, 2006 @ 2:00 PM |
| 4. Pre-qualification conference w/ 1 kg Sample | September 18, 2006 @ 2:00 PM |
| 5. Deadline for Submission of Bids | September 22, 2006 @ 2:00 PM |
| 6. Opening of Bids | September 22, 2006 @ 2:00 PM |
| 7. Bid Evaluation | September 25, 2006 |
| 8. Post-qualification | September 27, 2006 |
| 9. Notice of Award | September 29, 2006 |

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 1,500.00 to the METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) GONZALO GLEN B. DELGADO
BAC Chairman

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# Tricycle riders in Makati to pay ₱2 more for fare

## METROBRIEFS

### Suicide or foul play?

A HOUSEMAID died after she allegedly jumped from the fourth floor of a residential building in Sta. Mesa, Manila yesterday morning. The victim was identified only as Leonor, 38 to 40 years old, an Iloilo native and a stay-in helper at the GSIS Metro Homes, Phase 3 on Anonas Street. Leonor sustained wounds in the head and different parts of the body, according to Manila Police District (MPD) Homicide Section head Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling Jr. An initial investigation conducted by PO3 Eric delos Arcos showed that the incident took place at 4:20 a.m. Witnesses said they heard the gate leading to the fourth floor, where Leonor lived with her employers, open at 1 a.m. A few hours later, security guard Ulysses Topie discovered the victim lying outside the building. Police said the victim did not leave any suicide note. "We are waiting for the results of the autopsy to find out if there was any foul play in Leonor's death," Yanquiling said.

*Margaux C. Ortiz*

### Health care colloquium

DR. LEONOR M. Tripon-Rosero, a 1968 cum laude graduate of the University of the East College of Dentistry and chair of the Professional Regulation Commission, will lead the panel of speakers in the third UE Diamond Jubilee Colloquium to be held Friday, 1:30 p.m., at the UE Conference Hall in UE Manila. The event, dubbed "A Colloquium on Health Care Services (Present Status & Predicament)," will also feature as panel members the country's top officials in the field of health care.

**By Tarra V. Quismundo**

TRICYCLES PLYING THE STREETS of the country's financial capital will soon be charging P7 per passenger after the Makati City Council approved a P2 fare increase because of rising fuel costs.

City Ordinance 2006-004, which raised the tricycle fare from P5 to P7, was approved on Aug. 8 to "economically empower the thousands who depend on the tricycle transport industry for their livelihood and subsistence."

"We believe this is a reasonable increase because gas prices are very high now, so this is very timely. We hope it will help tricycle drivers," said Hermenegildo San Miguel, chief of the Makati Department of Public Services (DPS), one of the local agencies that pushed for a fare hike.

The ordinance, meanwhile, raised the discounted fare for students, senior citizens and the differently abled from P4 to P6.

San Miguel said the fare hike would take effect 15 days after City Hall publishes the legislation in a paper of general circulation.

The DPS has already started preparing fare matrices for distribution to tricycle drivers.

The fare hike was sought by Makati-based tricycle drivers and operators who cited the Expanded Value-Added Tax and the increase in the cost of fuel, spare parts and basic commodities as their reason for seeking the increase.

There are about 4,500 registered tricycles operating in around 50 city routes, San Miguel said.

At the same time, he warned tricycle drivers against overcharging passengers.

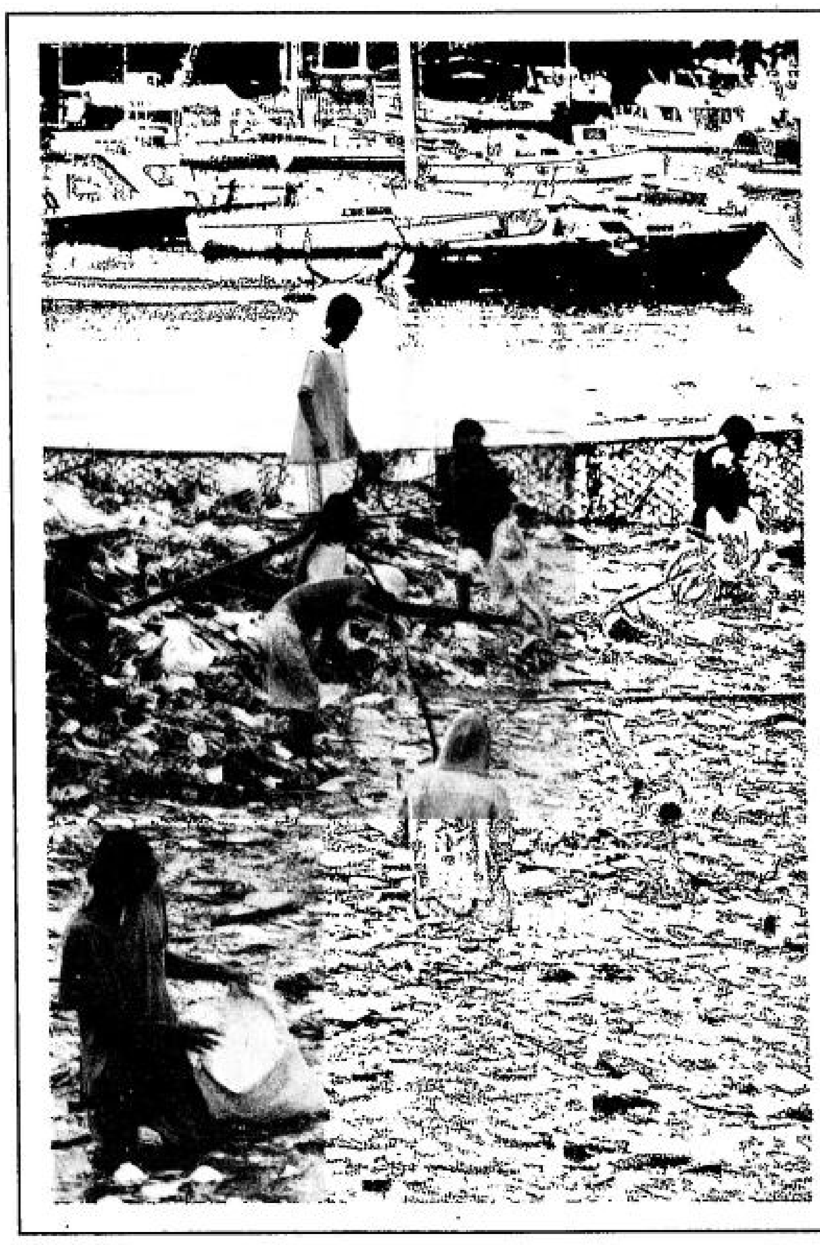
### Maximum charge

He added that drivers could charge only a a maximum of P14 per trip since tricycles operating in the city can only carry a maximum of two passengers per trip.

"If you are in a hurry and you cannot wait for another passenger, you can tell the driver that you will just pay the full fare of P14. He cannot charge you more than that," San Miguel added.

Those found violating the ordinance will be fined P500 for the first offense, P1,000 for the second offense and P2,000 for the third offense.

Their franchise could also be cancelled, the DPS chief said.



**WORLDS APART** Only a net separates a group of scavengers trying to eke out a living by collecting recyclable materials, from the rich who own the beautiful yachts docked at Manila Bay.

ERIK ARAZAS

# Army village bats for closure of factory as fire, health risk

**By Jocelyn R. Uy**

RESIDENTS OF A VILLAGE HOUSING ENLISTED personnel of the armed forces in Western Bicutan, Taguig City have asked the city government to close down a factory in the area that caught fire over the weekend.

The factory—Defense Contract Corp. Philippines—manufactures military and anti-riot equipment such as bulletproof vests, helmets and fiber glass. Reportedly owned by a policeman, the factory also produces signal flares, tear gas and pyrotechnics.

Former Navy Ensign Eriderto Ilano, president of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Enlisted Personnel Village Homeowners Association said that in 2003, residents had already complained about the noise and noxious fumes coming from the factory. "Flares were fired for testing purposes," Ilano added. "Constant hammering inside the building also caused a lot of noise."

The residents wanted the factory relocated to a "more suitable place," but after talking to the owner, the noise stopped and the smoke disappeared. Ilano, however, said the factory should not have been allowed to operate in a residential area. He added that he would ask the city government to check whether or not the factory violated any local ordinance.

City fire marshal Senior Insp. Virgilio dela Paz said he would wait for a formal complaint from Ilano's group before conducting an investigation into the factory's operations.

# NBI director's office converted into a museum; donations needed

**By Tina G. Santos**

THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE National Bureau of Investigation will soon be turned into a museum.

Nestor Mantaring, the newly appointed NBI chief, said he already asked Public Information Office to get in touch with relatives of past bureau directors to ask them for items which they could donate to the museum he is planning to put up.

Mantaring, however, had stressed in a previous interview that he did not believe the rumor that the director's office on the third floor was jinxed.

Still, he said he had no intention of occupying the room where four of his predecessors, who all died during their term as NBI director, used to hold office.

Mantaring added that he would stay in his office, which is located on the second floor of the annex building. The director's office is in the main building.

According to the new NBI chief, he considers his office, which he has been occupying for the past six years, "lucky."

"*Doon ako naging* deputy director, assistant director, acting director, and now, director, *suwerte din sa akin at sayang naman kung aalis pa ako doon kasi ako na ang nagpaayos nun.* (It was there that I became a deputy director, assistant director, acting director and now director. I consider that room lucky and it would be a shame to leave it because I was the one who fixed it up)," he added.

Mantaring succeeded Reynaldo Wycoco who died in December last year. Wycoco was the fourth NBI chief—after Antonio Aragon, Santiago Toledo and Federico Opinion Jr.—to die while in office.

## DID YOU KNOW

OF THE 17 CITIES and municipalities in the National Capital Region, Quezon City has the largest land area at 153.6 sq km—more than twice that of any city or municipality in the region. The city occupies 24.63 percent of the total land area of Metro Manila (623.69 sq km), followed by Caloocan City (53.33 sq km) and Muntinlupa City (46.7 sq km). The smallest in terms of land area is the municipality of Pateros with 2.1 sq km.

*Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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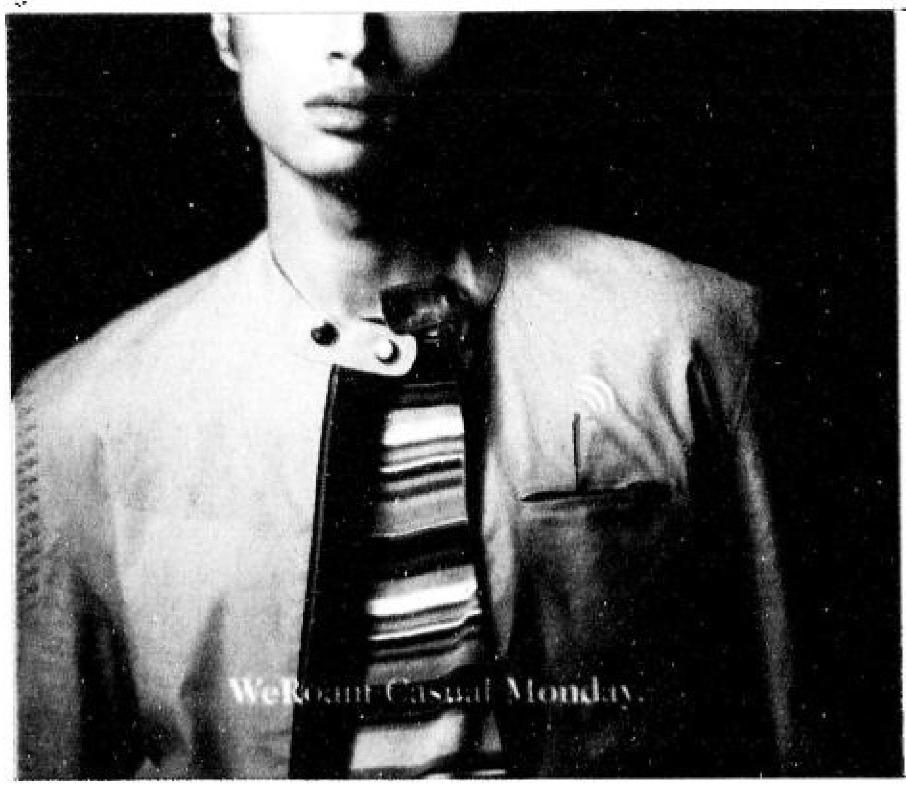
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# Beijing, Seoul condemn Koizumi visit to shrine

BEIJING—CHINA AND SOUTH KOREA REacted angrily on Tuesday to the Japanese prime minister's visit to a war shrine, calling on Tokyo to repent for its wartime past as activists protested at Japanese diplomatic offices in Beijing and Hong Kong.

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing warned Tokyo that its handling of its World War II past was "an important precondition" for relations with China, one of Japan's biggest trading partners.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to the Yasukuni Shrine is a "hindrance to international justice that tramples the human conscience," said Li, who took the unusual step of reading out a protest in person to Japanese Ambassador Yuji Miyamoto at the Chinese foreign ministry.

The shrine commemorates Japan's war dead, including convicted war criminals, and critics say it glorifies Tokyo's militarism of the 1930s and '40s, when Japanese forces invaded much of East Asia at a cost of millions of lives. Koizumi's visit fell on the anniversary of Tokyo's Aug. 15, 1945, surrender at the end of World War II.

In Seoul, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun urged Tokyo to "prove that it has no intention to repeat" the past.

Roh made his comments in a speech marking the 61st anniversary of the end of Japanese colonial rule on the Korean Peninsula, an era whose memory still provokes anger in both South and North Korea.

In Beijing, about 30 protesters waved banners and shouted slogans outside the Japanese Embassy. The protesters dispersed peacefully after about 20 minutes, and there was no repeat of the violence of April 2005, when demonstrators smashed windows.

The protests last year erupted over Tokyo's wartime past and its bid for a permanent UN Security Council seat.

"China is the biggest victim of the Japanese war of aggression," Li told Miyamoto.

"The Japanese government should acknowledge and treat this part of history as a political basis of the resumption of development of the postwar relationship between China and Japan," Li said.

"This is an important precondition for the future that the two countries are facing," he added.

In Hong Kong, about 50 protesters marched to the Japanese Consulate, carrying banners that said "Down with Japanese imperialism" and "Shame on Koizumi." *AP*

**PROTESTERS** burn pictures of the Yasukuni Shrine and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi during a demonstration in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. REUTERS

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Shoe X-ray ineffective

WASHINGTON—The US government's new order that all airline passengers put their shoes through X-ray machines won't help screeners find a liquid or gel that can be used as a bomb. The machines are unable to detect explosives, according to a report of the Department on Homeland Security on aviation screening recently obtained by The Associated Press. Security procedures were put in place after British police last week broke up a terrorist plot to assemble and detonate bombs aboard as many as 10 airliners going from Britain to the United States. *AP*

### Militants kill 6 cops

KABUL, Afghanistan—Militants fatally shot a local police chief and five other officers in an ambush on a desert road in western Afghanistan on Tuesday, while US and Afghan forces killed an al-Qaida suspect in the east. Gen. Sayed Aqa Sakid, the provincial police chief, said six policemen were killed and four were wounded in the attack in volatile Dalaram district. Taliban fighters have moved into the district after fleeing Nato-led military operations in southern Helmand province. *AP*

### Iraq district sealed off

BAGHDAD, Iraq—US and Iraqi forces have sealed off a notoriously violent district of southern Baghdad with massive concrete walls as part of a broader push to quell sectarian violence. The US military on Tuesday said it was conducting a deeper probe into what caused a series of huge explosions on Sunday in Baghdad's Zafaraniyah neighborhood which killed 57 Iraqis and wounded more than 150. The military said dozens of concrete barriers have been put up around the homes of residents in the district of Dura since Friday "in an attempt to keep terrorists out." *AFP*

### Battered and bloodied

MEXICO CITY— Protesters—including some leftist lawmakers—were battered and bloodied in a scuffle with riot police outside Mexico's Congress on Monday after supporters of presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador tried to set up a protest camp to demand a full recount in last month's election. Lopez Obrador's backers also picketed the Federal Electoral Tribunal as it met to resolve election disputes, and maintained around-the-clock tent camps across large swaths of central Mexico City. *AP*

### Castro tired yet alert

HAVANA, Cuba—Fidel Castro appeared tired yet alert in a video with his younger brother and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, the first footage of the bedridden Cuban leader since he stepped aside as president two weeks ago. The video, shown Monday on state-run television, appeared aimed at dispelling doubts that Castro was still alive after surgery for intestinal bleeding. It also showed a vulnerable and affectionate side of the leader, who clasped Chavez's hands and looked warmly at his close friend and political ally. *AP*

### 4M laptop batteries recalled

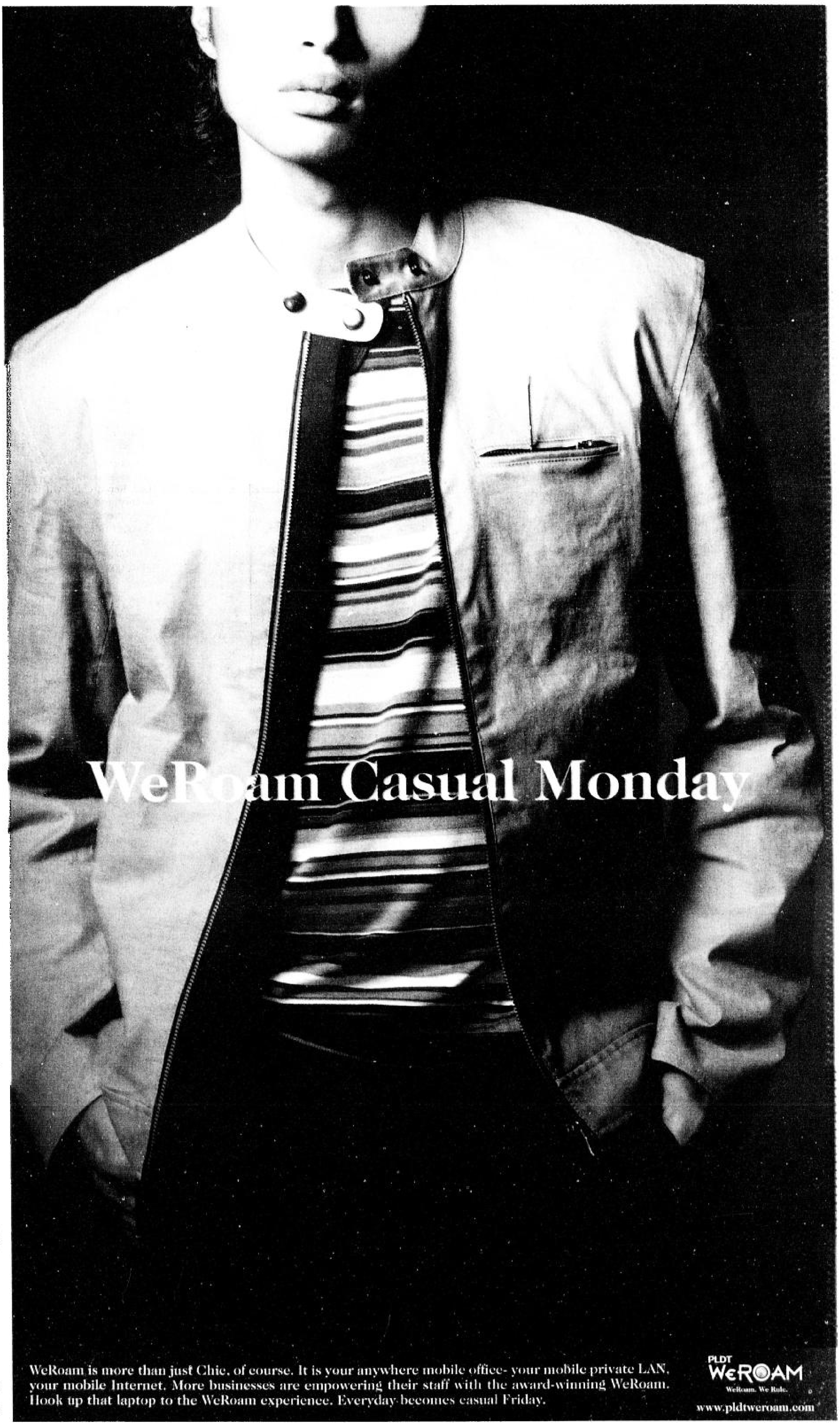
DALLAS, Texas—Dell Inc. on Monday said it would recall 4.1 million notebook computer batteries made by Sony Corp. because they could overheat and catch fire. Dell negotiated conditions of the recall with the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission, which called it the largest electronics-related recall ever involving the agency. A Dell spokesperson said the Sony batteries were placed in notebooks that were shipped between April 1, 2004, and July 18 of this year. *AP*

### Third trial for mother

CORONA, California—A woman accused of breast-feeding her son methamphetamine-laced milk will be retried a third time on a murder charge. "It was abundantly clear to the court that the cause of death of the victim was due to methamphetamine intoxication," Riverside County Judge Patrick Magers said in rejecting a defense request to dismiss the charge. Amy Leanne Prien, who is currently serving a 10-year sentence for felony child endangerment, said she woke up Jan. 19, 2002, and found her son dead in bed. *AP*

### Demo on Aceh peace deal

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—About 10,000 protesters accused Indonesia's government on Tuesday of failing to deliver on promises made when separatist rebels signed an agreement one year ago to end decades of fighting in tsunami-ravaged Aceh province. The demonstration in front of the provincial capital's 18th century mosque was one of the largest in Aceh in recent years, highlighting the challenges that remain despite the success so far of the Aug. 15, 2005 peace deal. *AP*



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# Refugees head home as truce holds

**TWO ISRAELI** soldiers rejoice after leaving Lebanese territory on the second day of the ceasefire. REUTERS

BEIRUT, LEBANON—THOUSANDS OF LEBANESE REFUGEES headed home to south Lebanon on Tuesday as a UN truce between Israel and Hezbollah held on into a second day and planning got under way for a beefed up UN force to deploy in the area.

Underlining the fragility of the "cessation of hostilities," the Israeli Army said Hezbollah fired four mortar bombs overnight that landed near Israeli troops in southern Lebanon, causing no casualties or damage. The Army on Monday said it had killed at least one guerrilla in shootings after the truce.

Ground clashes, Israeli air strikes and Hezbollah rocket fire ceased on Monday as the truce took effect, encouraging thousands of Lebanese refugees to return to southern villages devastated by the five-week war.

Thousands of vehicles jammed a bombed out coastal highway linking Beirut to the south of the country again from the early hours of Tuesday, as a sea of mainly Shiite Muslim refugees streamed back home.

Cars, vans and pickup trucks packed with families and belongings strapped to the roof advanced on makeshift diverted roads at a snail's pace. Pictures of Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah were plastered on many windows.

"We're very happy, it's our land, our country and our home," Zahra Gheith, a 34-year-old mother of five, told Reuters. "The war wasn't necessary but (Israel) started it and we had to free our country. I'm with the resistance (Hezbollah) to death."

**AN ARMORED** personnel carrier crosses the border toward northern Israel after weeks of fierce ground battles with Hezbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon. AFP

The truce also allowed many Israelis to leave bomb shelters for the first time in a month.

French military officers headed to the United Nations to discuss the reinforced UN peacekeeping force that France is expected to lead.

At a meeting on Monday of some 20 potential troop contributing countries, participants said that a concept of operations would be ready by Thursday at another session of interested nations. "We have no formal, specific commitments from troop contributors, but obviously we're continuing those discussions," UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said. "We have one leg up in that there is already a UN force in south Lebanon."

Lebanon's Defense Minister Elias Murr said the Lebanese Army would send 15,000 troops to the north of the Litani River around the end of the week, ready to enter the southern border area.

But Murr said the Army would not be disarming Hezbollah guerrillas, who have controlled the area for six years.

Murr said the Lebanese Army would deploy on the border only after the deployment of the UN force and verification of the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Nasrallah on Monday night said his fighters had won a "strategic and historic victory" over Israel and that it was the wrong time publicly to discuss disarming them.

But US President George W. Bush said Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, had been defeated and accused the Islamic Republic of meddling in Lebanon and Iraq.

"In both these countries, Iran is backing armed groups in the hope of stopping democracy from taking hold," Bush said. *Reuters*

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# Cleric to Israel: Fear long-range missiles of Iran

TEHRAN, IRAN—AN IRANIAN HARD-LINE cleric warned Israel Tuesday that Iran's 2,000-km range missiles would land in Tel Aviv if the Jewish state attacked Iran, state-run television reported.

Ahmad Khatami, a mid-ranking cleric, said Israel should bear in mind its monthlong war with Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas before considering any threats against Iran.

Boasting that Hezbollah's 70-km range missiles "turned Israel into a country of ghosts," Khatami declared that Israel would face dire consequences if it "makes an iota of aggression against Iran."

"They must fear the day (Iran's) 2,000-km range missiles land in the heart of Tel Aviv," he said.

Khatami is a Friday prayer leader in Tehran and a member of the Assembly of Experts, a clerical panel that has the power to choose or dismiss Iran's top leader, but he is not considered a government official.

Tehran perceives international criticism of its nuclear program as carrying a potential threat of military action. The UN Security Council has given Iran until the end of August to halt its uranium enrichment activities.

Israel has remained in the background as the United States and several Western allies stepped up claims that Iran seeks to develop nuclear arms—an allegation Iran denies. But Israel has made no secret that it takes a dim view of Tehran's nuclear aspirations.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has repeatedly called for Israel to be destroyed. *AP*

# Israel: 13 prisoners for 2 captive soldiers

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL HAS 13 HEZBOLLAH prisoners and the bodies of dozens of guerrillas that it could offer in exchange for two Israeli soldiers captured by Hezbollah, military officials said Tuesday.

Publicly, Israel has insisted that Hezbollah unconditionally release the captured soldiers. The UN Security Council resolution that led to the cessation of hostilities also demands that Hezbollah hand over the Israeli prisoners.

But the officials indicated that Israel is ready for an arrangement through a mediator that could ultimately lead to a release of the prisoners it holds.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has appointed Ofer Dekel, formerly the deputy head of Israel's Shin Bet security service, to oversee efforts to bring back the two soldiers captured by Hezbollah on July 12 in a cross-border raid that sparked 34 days of war in Lebanon.

Israel would not negotiate a release of any Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the two soldiers, according to officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media on the issue.

The officials did not say what Israel would offer the Palestinians in exchange for Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier snatched on June 25 in a cross-border raid carried out by Hamas militants. *AP*

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

**Pacquiao warns Morales about upcoming fight** /A26

SPORTS

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**Determined US sweeps World Championship warm-ups** /A26

# Bacolod takes W. Series win No.2

PHOTO COURTESY OF JRSOFTBALLWORLDSERIES.COM

MEMBERS of Bacolod's ETCS softball team pose for tournament organizers after nipping US-Central's Elyria of Ohio, 1-0, Monday. The Filipina teeners are a win away from the semifinals.

**THE PHILIPPINES' EDUCATION AND TRAINING Center School of Bacolod City pulled off a stunning 1-0 victory over US-Central representative Elyria of Ohio Monday (Tuesday in Manila) to move a step closer to the semifinals of the 2006 Junior League (13-14) World Series in Kirkland, Washington.**

The ETCS softbelles' second straight victory pushed them to the top of Pool B. The Filipinas came off a 4-0 demolition of US-West, represented by the Murray Hill team from Beaverton Oregon, on Sunday.

A win against US-South squad Naples from Florida at 5 a.m. on Wednesday will assure the Bacoleñas of a berth in the semifinals.

ETCS placed third in the past two Little League (11-12) World Series editions in Portland, Oregon.

The Bacolod squad, the Philippine and Asia-Pacific champion, is gunning for the country's second World Series crown in the Junior League event, following the victory of Paglaum Village National High School three years ago.

Another Bacolod squad, Domingo Lacson National High School, went home with fifth place honors in Junior League play in 2004 and 2005.

Naples, which opened its bid with an impressive 6-0 triumph over Latin American squad Asofem from Manaubo, Puerto Rico, is actually defending the title for US-South, taking the place of 2005 champion Lake Wales, Florida.

The Latin Americans, who will face the Filipinas at 6:15 a.m. on Friday, dropped its second straight assignment yesterday, losing to Murray Hill, 5-4.

Meanwhile, perennial contender US-Southwest, represented by Needville, streaked to the top of Pool A with its second straight win—a 5-0 drubbing of Canadian team Turtle Club of Windsor.

Needville downed host Kirkland, 10-5, on opening-day. *Cedelf P. Tupas, Inquirer Visayas*

# Pagulayan off to a masterful start

**By Musong R. Castillo**

IT TOOK A LITTLE FEELING-IT-OUT FOR ALEX Pagulayan to settle into a rhythm last night before polishing off Jec Limen, 9-2, and gain passage into the second round of the 2006 BSCP National Open billiards championship.

The 26-year-old Pagulayan, the reigning US Open champ, struggled to a 2-2 tie before winning the last seven racks and living up to his billing as the player to beat in this tournament that dangles P1 million to the winner.

"Give me another two days and I'll be fine," Pagulayan said in Filipino after the match, witnessed by a good opening day crowd at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. "I played a good opponent. I think he just got nervous because our match was on TV."

The 17-year-old Limen's nervousness was apparent as he flubbed two crucial shots on the pink No. 4 ball early in the match which could have given him the lead. Pagulayan, who came into this tourney fresh from a seventh place tie in an IPT event in Las Vegas, pounced on every opportunity.

From 2-all, Pagulayan had the ball in hand after Limen jumped the cue ball out of the table on the break for 3-2. The miscues on the No. 4 came in the next two games and Pagulayan raced to a 5-2 lead.

The only other match played on the TV table belonged to veteran Antonio Gabica, who won by the same score over Raymond Faraon.

Gabica raced to a 4-0 lead and never looked back, cementing a second round collision with Elvis Calasang, a 9-5 victor over Rene Cruz.

Pagulayan will face either Nestor Ocampo or Edgar Acaba in the next round.

Veteran international campaigner Leonardo Andam was one of the seeds who took a loss on opening day, taking a 6-9 beating at the hands of 35-year-old Novo Ecijano Napoleon Labrador.

A native of Compostela Valley, Labrador will next clash with Panfilo Damu-Ag, a 9-6 winner over Benedicto Baay.

Victor Arpilleda and Mario Tolentino sealed a second round date after fashioning out hard-earned wins over separate foes. Arpilleda turned back Jerry Pelayo, 9-7, while Tolentino survived Ricky Gamboa, 9-6, to join fellow winners Elmer Haya and Jimmy Ching in the next round.

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# Rivera falls in Jakarta Masters

FILIPINO BIBOY Rivera struggled in the second block and tumbled to 13th place on Tuesday in the men's Masters competition of the 19th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championships in Jakarta.

Rivera, who led after the first block with 1,772 pinfalls, could only tally 1,459 in the second block and wound up with a 3,251 total, way behind winner Wu Siu Hong of Hong Kong, who rallied with a 1726 en route to a 3511 aggregate.

Another Filipino, Chester King, amassed 1,576 in the second block and finished right behind Rivera at 14th with a 3,205 total.

Indonesia's Ryan Lalisang placed second with a 3,504 total, just seven pins off Hong. Malaysian Alex Liew took third with a 3,464 total.

After burning the lanes in the first block, Rivera lost his touch and submitted low games of 159, 190, 171, 165, 201, 183, 194 and 196. He missed the stepladder finals after averaging 198.50 in 16 games.

Koreans Kim Yeau-jin and Nam Bo-ra staged a 1-2 finish in women's play.

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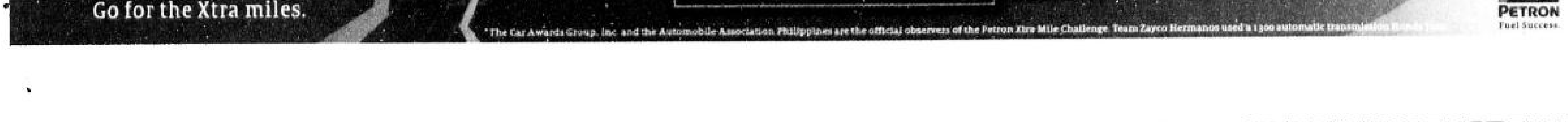

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## Finswimmer Ramirez 6th

THE PHILIPPINES' first foray into international monofin swimming, which uses a technique that resembles the way mythical mermaids move in the water, yielded sterling results after a member of the Quezon City team placed sixth in the recent Korea Open. Madonna Ramirez, the first Filipino to compete internationally in finswimming, finished the 3-kilometer race with a time of 31 minutes and 31 seconds, according to the Quezon City public affairs and information services office. The competition, held at Gujora Beach in Geoje City, drew more than 100 finswimmers from Japan and Korea. Ramirez lives in Don Antonio Heights, Quezon City. *DJ Yap*

## Southwoods Invt'l reset

DUE TO PREVAILING inclement weather, the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club yesterday announced the postponement of its 13th annual Invitational Tournament to sometime October or November. The tournament was originally scheduled to start tomorrow. Southwoods spokesperson Chatt Pilar-Pagsanhan said at least 300 teams, composed of a member and a guest, are expected to take part in the event that stakes about P7.5 million worth of giveaways and prizes.

## LPC derby slated today

TOP ENTRIES WILL BE fielded today in Las Piñas Coliseum's invitational 3-cock derby featuring 50 fights. Among the early favorites are popular Sweater man Sonny Lagon, Gerry Ramos, derby host Eric Carreon, Wewee and Pepe Burgos of Batangas, former Mayor Nene Aguilar, Louie Cua, Renato Shio, Danny Aguilar, Roming Vergara, Gerald Go, Boy de Roca, Cito Manansala and Cito Zamesa. For inquiries, call 873-1040, 874-3910 or 0926-7450375.

## SJC stagfest attracts 200

MORE THAN 200 COCKers and breeders gird up for the P2.5-million Rambulan 5-Stag Derby, the first event of the 2006 stagfighting season set on Aug. 21, 23, 25, 28 and 30 at San Juan Coliseum. The last three days of screening and wing-banding will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, according to promoter Ronnie Lacsina, who is backed by the SJC management. For inquiries, call 0918-9001411, 725-5369 or 725-6563. Entry fee is P8,800 in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000.

## RACING TIPS

### BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Sandok (4), Lady Be Gold (5), Heart of the Wind (2), More Love (3)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bold Water (5), Tervalac (2), Andorra (1), Audrey's Temper (3), Ilang Ilang Queen (8)
Race 3—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Maglev (11), Allyasa's Choice (1), EJ's Magic/EJ's Forever (6), Virgin Hill (7), Nature Chef (4), Spydes Goetee (2)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Red Phoenix (5), Whistle Blower (1), Yankee Clipper (2), Silver Dollar (4)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Naman Naman (8), Ravensworth (2), Premiere Event (7), Master Professor (5), JJ's Fried (3)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Mutiara (4), Dixie Dash (2), Demolition Jack (5), Vangie's Halo (6)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Valentine Girl (7), Korek Ka Dyan (6), Romblon Rock (3), Quick Pick (5)
Race 6—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Brittney's Magic (1), Latin Music (5), Silver Place (9), Coal of Arms (2), Ferran Ikaw Pa Rin (8), Road Runner (4)

# Marcelo powers thru the rain for first win

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—THE RAINS CAME at a perfect time for Jean Stefano Marcelo as he stunned his favored rivals Sunday in the sixth leg of the 2006 Shell Superkarting Series at the EKart Track of the Enchanted Kingdom complex.

The 15-year-old Marcelo's fruitful stint in the Lonato World Championship in Italy plus his experience racing in the rain keyed his first victory in the series—and against the likes of top guns Marlon Stockinger of Birel Motorsports and Matteo Guidelli of Alessandra Racing in the Formula 125 race.

Marcelo completed the 22-lap race in 12:56.91, exactly 5.473 seconds clear of Stockinger. Guidicelli checked in eight seconds later with a time of 13:05.933.

Mark Bumgarner of M&M Racing settled for fourth while Daniel Cleak of Birel Motorsports took fifth.

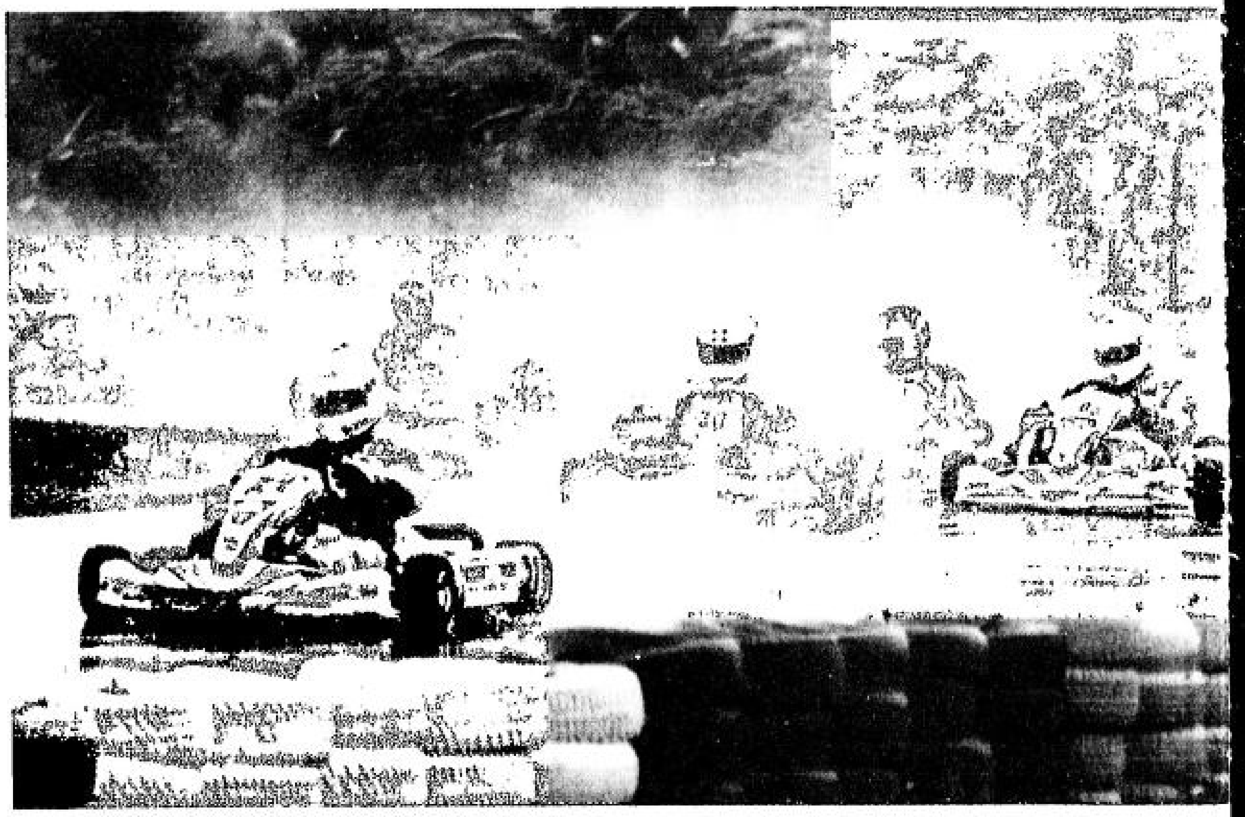
"The rain was God's answer to my prayer, and I took it as a sign to really hold on and give it my best," said Marcelo, son of former jetski champion John and grandson of racing great Eddie Marcelo.

Stockinger went on to claim the Rotax Max Seniors title over Guidicelli and Bumgarner. Cleak and Alessandra Madrigal of Alessandra Racing wound up fourth and fifth, respectively.

Kaine Gandiongco also came from behind and towed brother Patrick Gandiongco and Reggie Hisoler to a 1-2-3 finish for Cebu Racing Group in the Formula SL class.

Marcelo wound up fifth in Race 1 and fourth in Race 2 before the big turnaround.

Mon Tanjuatco of CRG, Bobby Domingo and Ecuadoran expatriate Santiago Garcia also ruled their divisions with Tanjuatco taking the ROK Senior title, Domingo topping the Rotax Max Novice, and Garcia bagging the Rotax Max Veterans plum.



JEAN Stefano Marcelo (21) pulls away from his favored rivals at the start in the premiere Formula 125 race.

Government Warning: Cigarette sm

# Lions, Knights seek Final 4 playoff edge

**IT'S HARD TO TELL WHO IS MORE MOTIvated: The two teams inching toward a twice-to-beat bonus or the two clubs looking to keep their season alive.**

League leaders San Beda and Letran may have the odds on their side as they hope to secure a crucial playoff edge against two lower-ranked teams in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

San Sebastian and Perpetual, after all, have more to fight for in the senior varsity twinbill that starts at 2 p.m.

And the two coaches at the top of the rung expressed that same wariness.

"The intensity is there, we just have to sustain it because San Sebastian is a very dangerous team and they're out to keep their campaign alive," said Letran's Louie Alas.

"We can't be complacent now because every win counts," said San Beda's Koy Banal. "We're within reach of our target of finishing at the top two, so we have to push ourselves harder to achieve that."

If games were won on paper, Letran and San Beda should be very well on a strong march toward the top two and the twice-to-beat edge.

The Knights defeated the Stags in their first encounter, 81-73, and San Sebastian is currently caught in a funk, having lost three straight games.

The Red Lions, on the other hand, carry with them the memories of a 61-45 rout of the Altas in the first round. Worse, Perpetual goes into the match without starting forward Vladimir Joe, who injured his knee in his team's last outing.

*Marc Anthony Reyes*

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| San Beda | 9 | 1 |
| Letran | 9 | 1 |
| PCU | 8 | 3 |
| Mapua | 6 | 5 |
| S. Sebastian | 3 | 7 |
| Perpetual | 3 | 7 |
| Jose Rizal | 3 | 8 |
| St. Benilde | 1 | 10 |

**GAMES TODAY**
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
12 nn—Letran vs San Sebastian (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs Perpetual (Srs/Jrs)

# Phone Pals boost stock with US tune-up games

**By June Navarro**

PLAYING AGAINST SOME OF THE BIGGEST names in the National Basketball Association can really boost a team's morale.

Talk 'N Text hopes to get a positive outcome from its tune-up games in the United States with some of the NBA's best in the 2006-07 Philippine Basketball Association season.

With the tools in place, Talk 'N Text coach Derrick Pumaren is confident that out of the team's US sojourn, the Phone Pals can go deep into the playoffs of the two season conferences.

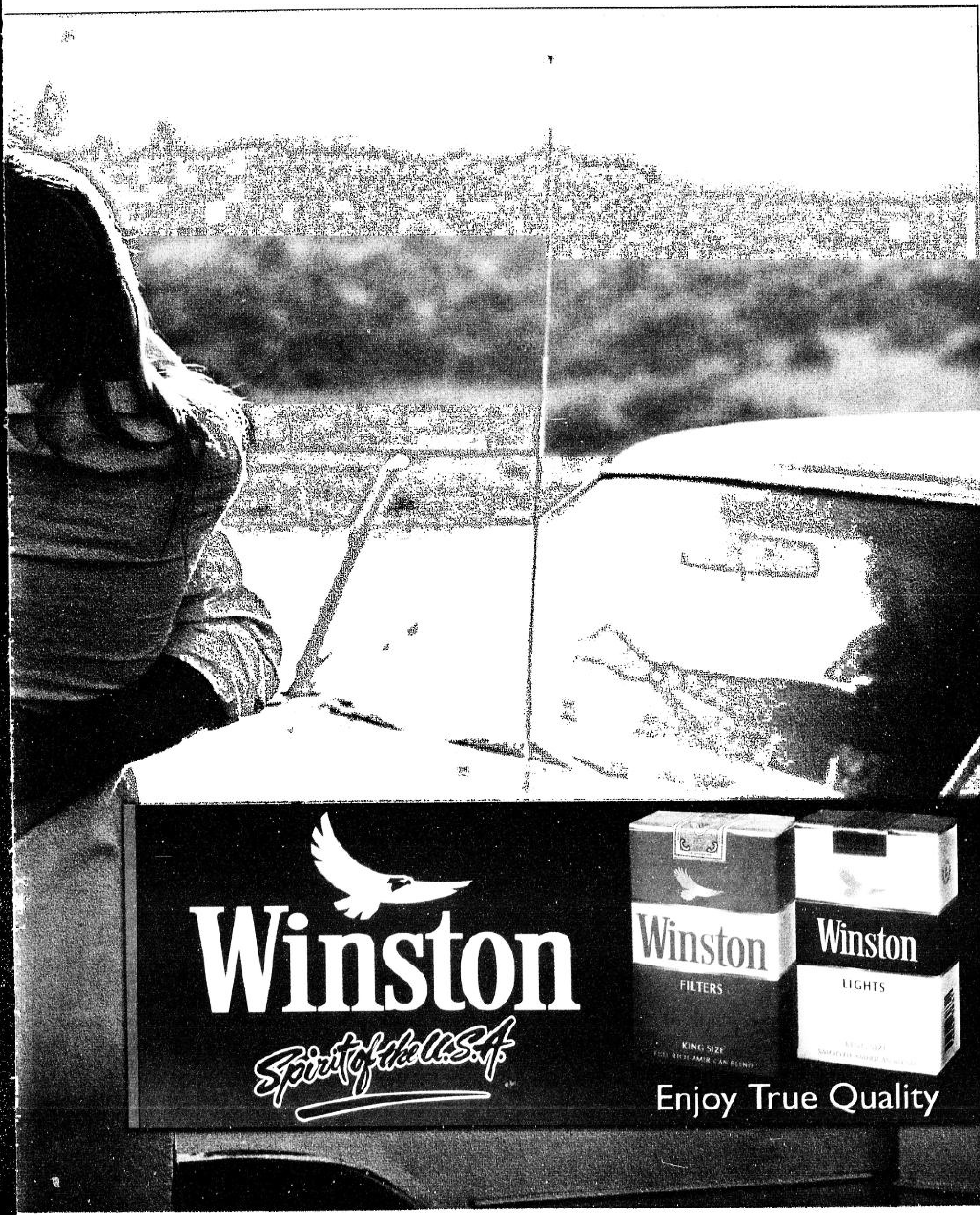
"They (Phone Pals) told me that if they could play competitively against the players in the NBA, the team could do better in the PBA," said Pumaren after the Phone Pals held scrimmages with the likes of Andrei Kirilenko, Al Harrington, Jahadi White, Tyrone Lue, Dontae Jones and Marcus Williams in Los Angeles.

Aside from playing for five games in the LA Summer Pro League, the Phone Pals also attended a two-week clinic in Florida where they underwent skills test in the morning and scrimmages in the afternoon with weights training in between.

"The confidence of the players is sky-high and we're playing better as a team right now," said Pumaren, whose Phone Pals finished eighth in the nine-team field in the season-ending Philippine Cup last conference.

Injuries and a blockbuster trade that netted Don Allado and Renren Ritualo in the middle of the conference attributed to their downfall.

After returning home last week, the Phone Pals now plan to use what they have learned in a four-game stint in South Korea next month. The Phone Pals have 10 players at the moment after releasing Poch Juinio, Vergel Meneses and Chris Cantonjos.



noking is dangerous to your health.

# Spring, John O down rivals

SPRING-TAGAYTAY crushed Banal na Pagaaral (Vigil Adorer), 111-67, recently to level its record at 2-2 in the 10th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the Lyceum gym in Intramuros, Manila.

Four players, led by Bambi Barnson, scored in double figures as the Spring-Tagaytay squad led from start to finish.

Barnson topscored with 22 points, followed by Arden Guiyab, Nani Epondulan and Louie Genido with 20, 13 and 13, respectively, for the team of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and EVP and Tagaytay City Mayor Bambol Tolentino.

John O got another big performance from ex-pro Marlon Legaspi to subdue Skytex Foam, 73-70, in the other game of the tourney organized by basketball talent manager Danny Espiritu.

Down by four after 10 minutes, John O rallied to inch ahead 42-41 at the turn and 58-52 going into the payoff period.

# Petronas hoopfest gets going

ILIGAN CITY—THE Gas Petronas invitational interschool (secondary) basketball tournament kicks off today with St. Peter's College facing St. Michael's College at the SMC gym in Barangay San Miguel.

The Iligan City Sports Commission and the Petronas Energy Phils. Inc. have assembled eight teams for the tourney sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

The other entries are La Salle Academy, Lanao Chung Hua School, Iligan Medical Center College, Iligan Capitol College, San Miguel Village School and Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology Developmental School.

"We look forward to developing young talents in our grassroots program," said city sports director Freddie Siao.

Also backing the tourney are Mayor Lawrence Ll. Cruz, Vice Mayor Henry C. Dy and Sangguniang Panlungsod committee chair on sports Councilor Valf Belmonte.

MISSION POSSIBLE

# US five completes warmup romp

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—LEBRON JAMES IS on a mission to put USA Basketball back on top of the world.

In a game that was decided in the first 10 minutes, James scored a team-high 23 points Tuesday to lead the United States to an emphatic 116-63 win over South Korea in a tuneup game for the world championships.

Led by James, the Americans took control early. The Cleveland Cavaliers superstar hit a 3-pointer two minutes in and then gave the United States an early 9-2 lead with an easy layup.

Late in the first period, James' two-handed slam dunk made it 13-5 and the Americans finished the first quarter with a 22-13 lead.

"We were a little sluggish at first and I was able to pick up my energy level and the guys followed," said James. "We got better as the game went on and took care of business."

With the win, the Americans improved to 5-0 in exhibition games leading up to the worlds which begin later this week in Japan.

Dwyane Wade gave the US a 20-point lead midway through the second period when he broke through the Korean defense and finished with a two-handed jam.

James, who had 19 points in the first half, stole the ball at center court and went in all alone for a slam dunk with 3:49 left in the second period as the US widened its lead to 62-35 at the break.

Despite the one-sided score, there was no letting up for James.

In the third period, Wade made an alley-oop lob to James who saluted the crowd after yet another dunk made it 73-38. The United States took an 86-52 lead into the final period when coach Mike Krzyzewski elected to rest the 6-foot-8 forward.

The US still must cut one of its players before the world championships. The roster was reduced to 13 when Gilbert Arenas strained his groin during practice Monday and was unable to compete for a spot on the 12-player roster.

"We have to get down to 12 players before the worlds and that will be a tough decision," said Krzyzewski. *AP*

**LEBRON** James of the US elevates for a highlight dunk against South Korea during the World Basketball Challenge 2006 in Seoul. REUTERS

**PACQUIAO:** I'll show Morales what I'm made of.

# Pacquiao: I am the world's best

**LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—EVERY time Manny Pacquiao lands a blow to Erik Morales, the Mexican won't just feel the sting of one punch. He'll feel the force of an entire nation.**

This much, the Filipino ring icon promised when promoters announced the third installment of a rivalry between two former world champions in three different divisions set Nov. 18.

That rivalry began when Morales took a 12-round unanimous decision last year only to have Pacquiao avenge the defeat with a 10th-round stoppage this past January. That was the first time Morales ever hit the canvas in his illustrious career where he ascended into the ranks of ring icons.

"I will beat him in this fight just like I beat him last fight," Pacquiao said. "I'm the best super featherweight in the world and I cannot wait to prove it to Erik Morales again.

"Morales will feel the strength of the people of the Philippines behind every punch I land on him. This may be the Grand Finale in our trilogy, but it is just the beginning for Manny Pacquiao."

Pacquiao, 42-3 with two drawn and 32 knockouts, won a 12-round unanimous decision over former world champion Oscar Larios on July 1 in Manila.

Morales, 48-4 with 34 knockouts, is a former World Boxing Council super bantamweight, featherweight and super featherweight champion. Julio Cesar Chavez is the only other Mexican to own world titles in three divisions.

"I have nothing but respect for Pacquiao. He's a good person and he beat me. You won't hear any excuses from me," Morales said.

Pacquiao is a former flyweight, junior flyweight and featherweight champion. *AFP*

# Golf's No. 3 Furyk likes low profile

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—JIM FURYK, AMONG the favorites for the US PGA Championship, is perfectly happy to command less attention than golfing heavyweights Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson.

The world No. 3 is comfortable with what he has achieved in the game and likes his chances this week in a region of the United States where he boasts an impressive track record.

"I am happy with where I stand in the world of golf and I'm happy with the way I've been playing," Furyk said during a news conference at Medinah Country Club on Monday.

"Whether or not I show up on TV every week versus Tiger or Phil, or whoever it may be, is not important to me. I think the guys who get more attention than me are deserving of it."

Furyk, who won the 2003 US Open at nearby Olympia Fields, has produced superb form this year with nine top-10s in 18 PGA Tour starts, including victory at the Wachovia Championship.

He has flourished at the majors, tying for 22nd at the Masters, finishing joint runner-up at the US Open and placing fourth at last month's British Open.

Far from thinking he has nothing to show after being close to success in the last two majors, he prefers to dwell on the positives.

"At the British Open, it wasn't like I was right there with five holes to play," the 36-year-old American said.

"The US Open I was within a shot or two coming down the stretch," added Furyk, who missed a six-foot par putt at the last to settle for a share of second place at Winged Foot. *Reuters*

# Filipino lifters eye bench press gold rush

THE PHILIPPINES STANDS TO WIN MORE GOLD medals in the 2006 Asian Bench Press Championships, which kick off this weekend at the Bayview Park Hotel.

With Richie Rosales spearheading the 65-man RP team competing in a total of 21 weight classes for men and women, the Filipinos are confident they can surpass the one gold and three silver medals they won in the 2002 edition of the biennial meet held in India.

"We have more chance of winning gold medals this time," declared Powerlifting Association of the Philippines president Dominic Cabalza in the weekly PSA Forum, where the Aug. 19-20 meet was launched yesterday.

Rosales, the Philippines' strongest man, accounted for the country's lone gold in India four years ago.

Rosales was also in the public sports program sponsored by Pagcor, the Manila City government and Manila Sports Council (Masco), together with Paul Kelso of powerlifting USA International magazine, deputy tournament director Jacqueline Tan and Marie Jean Cordero, director of sales and marketing of Bayview Park Hotel.

Being tournament director, coach and player at the same time, Rosales admitted he is hard-pressed to duplicate his gold medal feat in 2002.

But he pointed out that the host country is capable of winning as many as 20 gold medals in the event.

In all, more than 60 gold medals are at stake.

Seven of the Filipino gold prospects—Krystelle Nocom, Erlina Pecante, Elvira Lorenzo, Audrey Ortiz, Leonora Oca, Michelle Cruz, Andrei Matias and coach Renato Dio—likewise appeared in the Forum and did some bench press demonstration.

# Was Viloria's RP worst boxing loss?

BRIAN VILORIA COULD NOT MERIT pity or praise for his soft, undecided stand against an obscure crown challenger in Las Vegas on Friday.

Suddenly, it was no longer easy saying something nice about Brian.

To repeat, Filipino boxing fans were one in their dejection over Viloria's failed second defense of his WBC light-flyweight crown.

But, looking back, this could be partly blamed on Manny Pacquiao, who had lent losing a classic twist.

Despite dropping his bloody first encounter against Mexican ring legend Erik Morales in March 2005, Pacquiao managed to win over many admirers.

Pacquiao had shown there could be dignity in defeat.

With that classy setback, Pacquiao had gallantly told boxing fans all over the world the courage and nobility of the Filipino warrior.

* * *

## BARE EYE

*Recah Trinidad*

**OK, a defeat is a defeat. We were not supposed to call that Pacquiao loss magnificent or beautiful.**

**But, in the same breadth, there was every reason to call the Viloria setback against Mexican Omar Nino Romero ugly and dumb.**

**Truth is, there were those who were mad at the setback.**

**To repeat, Filipino fight fans were unanimous in their dejection.**

**The bout had to be rated a sorry mismatch, despite the claims of one respected expert that it was close.**

**Yes, not even a knockdown in the final round could've changed the final outcome.**

* * *

The pundits may be right in saying Viloria appeared to have saved his worst for the biggest fight of his life.

In fact, the dullness on the part of the loser had at times appeared deliberate and this led other fans to suspect Viloria had taken a dive.

That, of course, was wrong, unjust.

OK, Viloria just stood there like a statue as Romero continued to sting him with left jabs.

If to a pool player, Viloria appeared to be waiting for his foe to commit a miscue.

Instead of waiting to counter the jab—a big no-no—he should have parried and pressed. He should have ducked and dug in.

Well, by the time Viloria woke up in the final round, the opponent had already taken his crown away.

* * *

**The sadder truth here is that Viloria's fall to Romero is now a lead candidate as the most sordid setback by a Filipino in world boxing.**

**Gabriel Elorde's twin defeats at the hands of Puerto Rican Carlos Ortiz—in Manila and New York—lingered, but there was nothing for the Pinoy to be ashamed about these failed feats.**

**Rolando Navarette, after dominating with a classy display of power-punching, turned fancy and loose to fall in the homestretch and surrender to Bazooka Limon in Las Vegas in 1982.**

**There was regret over that defeat, but this was not tinged with misgivings.**

**Luisito Espinosa, after flooring his opponent twice in the opening round, succumbed to severe weight reduction to drop his world bantamweight crown to Israel Contreras at the Araneta Coliseum in 1991. But Espinosa went on to win the world featherweight crown in Tokyo in 1995.**

**Viloria? He now has to recompose and work hard to escape the ignominy of being the worst loser among Filipinos who have put on the boxing gloves.**

**MARIA** Kirilenko from Russia catches a ball during her match against Jelena Kostanic at the Rogers Cup. Kirilenko won, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1. REUTERS

## Lions donate track suits

THE COUNTRY'S TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES have found a surprise benefactor—the Lions Club of Chinese-Taipei, which, through its counterpart, the Manila Lions Club (District 301 AI), is donating a truckload of training suits to the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patafa). Lions Governor Valeriano Po turned over the training uniforms to the athletes yesterday, then heartily announced his group's commitment to continuously help the entire Philippine sports. "This is just the start of our program to help not just the track and field athletes, but all the other athletes, and Philippine sports in general," said Po during the PSA Forum. The Manila Lions Club has been actively involved in charity works since its inception 50 years ago. Among its present programs include a blood-letting campaign, a project that so far collected more than three million cubic-centimeters of blood; the "sight for kids"—a free operation for children with eye problems; and its annual Alay Lakad. This is the first time the group is turning its sight to sports. Patafa president Go Teng Kok graciously thanked the group.

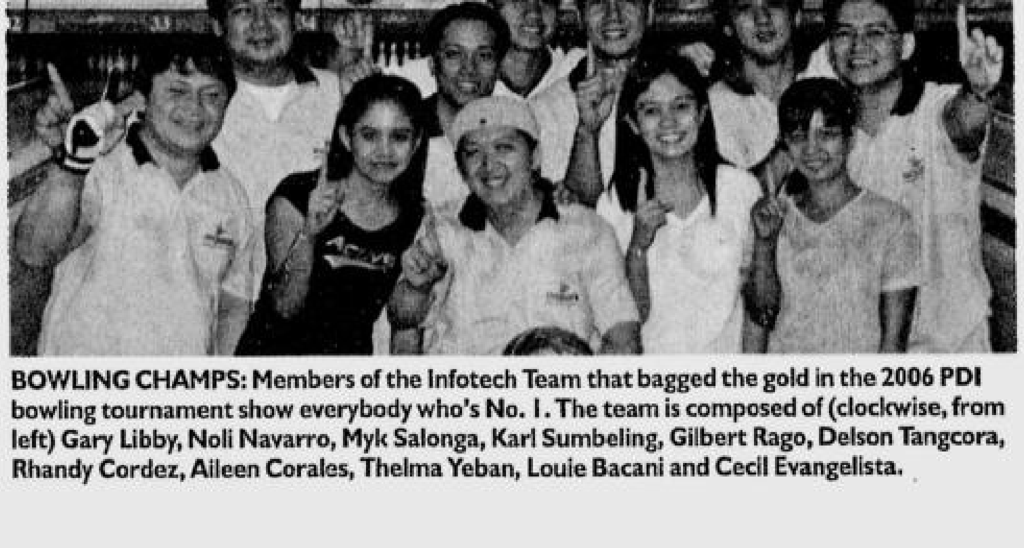
# Fernandez tops Pichay chess, wins P100,000

VETERAN CAMPAIGNER ERNESTO Fernandez scored 1.5 points in the last two rounds to emerge champion in the 3rd Prospero Pichay Sr. Memorial Open chess tournament yesterday at the SPSC-SSIT Campus in Cantilan City, Surigao del Sur.

The 43-year-old national master from Pagadian City drew with reigning national titlist NM Darwin Laylo in round eight on Monday then beat US Master Pedro Tidoy of Davao City in the ninth and final round yesterday to tally 8.0 points and win the P100,000 top purse.

Fernandez, a two-time Ozamiz champion, grabbed the title outright when overnight co-leader 2003 3.2a Asian zonal champion IM Ronald Dableo halved the point with 2006 Palawan Open winner Anthony Makinano of Cebu City.

Dableo garnered 7.5 points and went home with the runner-up prize of P50,000 in the P300,000 event supported by friends of Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay, the National Chess Federation of the Philippines president. *NM Marlon Bernardino, contributor*



**BOWLING CHAMPS:** Members of the Infotech Team that bagged the gold in the 2006 PDI bowling tournament show everybody who's No. 1. The team is composed of (clockwise, from left) Gary Libby, Noli Navarro, Myk Salonga, Karl Sumbeling, Gilbert Rago, Delson Tangcora, Rhandy Cordez, Aileen Corales, Thelma Yeban, Louie Bacani and Cecil Evangelista.

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- **Ecozone locators** posted 11% export growth in H1 /B12

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BUSINESS

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# OFW remittances surged to $1.1B in June

## Another half a million workers deployed in first 6 months

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

DOLLARS SENT HOME BY OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers through banks surged 18.1 percent to $1.1 billion in June.

This brought the OFW remittances in the first six months of the year to $6 billion, or 15.4-percent higher than the year-ago level, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. reported yesterday.

Aside from the increasing demand for Filipino workers, the inflows were also boosted by the aggressive marketing efforts of commercial banks and private remittance agents to make their services accessible to Filipino communities abroad, Tetangco added.

Citing documents from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration on new hires and rehires, Tetangco said the total deployment of OFWs grew 8.9 percent in June to 102,682. For the first half, deployment hit 586,819 or 5.1 percent better than the level a year ago.

The number of sea-based workers expanded by 7.6 percent in June, bringing the first-semester increase in deployment

OFW/ B6

# GMA bars dubious firms from Malampaya deal

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WANTS no hanky-panky in the extraction of oil from the Malampaya oil and gas field as she specifically barred dubious companies registered in money-laundering havens from bidding for the contract.

In Executive Order No. 556, signed last June 17, President Arroyo ordered Philippine National Oil Co. to hold a "strict bidding procedure" for the contract for the exploration, development, and production of crude oil from the Camago-Malampaya reservoir instead of just settling with "farm-in" or "farm-out" contracts.

In awarding the contract, the President said PNOC should ensure that the winning bidder should clearly show its financial capability to undertake the venture; should not be registered in a country known to be a haven for money laundering, and it should be the true principal and not just a mere broker or trader.

The President said that all negotiations or arrangements entered into by PNOC which violate the order would be canceled or discontinued.

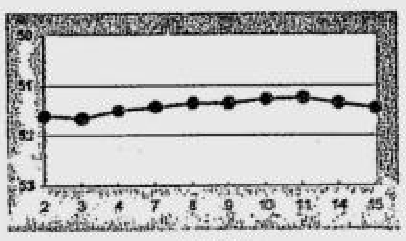
The EO is seen as a stinging rebuke to Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. CEO Eduardo Mañalac, who was accused by Palawan Rep. Abraham Kahlil B. Mitra of unilaterally awarding a farm-in contract for the Malampaya oil to Mitra Energy Ltd., a Malaysian company registered in Bermuda.

The firm only had a capital of $10 million with $9 million locked up in a convertible

GMA BARS/ B6

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



AUGUST

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 15, 2006

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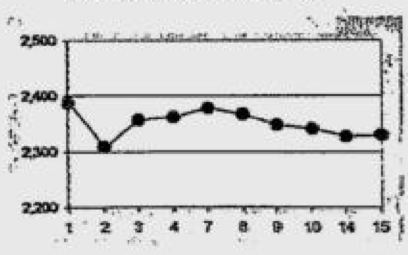
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 14, 2006

GOLD: $629.20-629.70
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 14, 2006

### STOCK MARKET

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**



(See stock market report on Page B4)

## Shares up slightly

SHARE PRICES CLOSED JUST 0.08-percent higher yesterday as investors sought the comfort of the sidelines amid an absence of fresh leads, dealers said.

They said the last batch of mostly upbeat second-quarter results did little to perk up activity in the market, which had apparently been shaken by external concerns.

These included US interest rates and the conflict between Lebanon and Israel even after a United Nations-led truce took effect.

The composite index was up 1.92 points at 2,329.42 after moving in a narrow range of 2,324.59 to 2,332.57. The all-shares index rose 1.50 points to 1,438.61.

Turnover was 1.77 billion shares valued at P781.5 million. Gainers narrowly led losers 39 to 34, with 66 stocks unchanged.

SHARES/ B4

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# Benpres net earnings up 540% to ₱1.9B in H1

## Gains from First Gen IPO boosts holding company's income

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

BENPRES HOLDINGS CORPORATION (Benpres) reported that its first half net income due to equity holders was P1.9 billion, a 540-percent increase from the P297 million registered in the same period last year.

Benpres' net income in the first half of 2006 is primarily derived from the equity share in net earnings of investees, after First Philippine Holdings Corporation (FPHC) booked a one-time gain from the sale of its stake in First Gen Corporation worth P2.7 billion.

First Gen conducted an initial public offering (IPO) in February 2006.

Benpres also said its unaudited consolidated revenues hit P8.4 billion in the first six months of 2006, 6.6 percent higher than its restated P7.8 billion in the same period last year.

First semester unaudited financial statements were restated to reflect the de-consolidation of Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

Benpres affiliate, First Philippine Holdings, reported a P4-billion net income due to equity holders of the parent in the first half of 2006, up from P1.7 billion in the same period last year.

Without the P2.7 billion gain from the First Gen IPO, net income would have been lower by 25 percent to P1.36 billion due to lower net earnings of subsidiaries and affiliate companies, a higher debt level, higher pension fund contribution and foreign exchange losses.

FPHC's share in earnings from First Gen fell following the ownership dilution to 66.83 percent from 88.44 percent after First Gen's IPO.

The consolidated gross revenue of another affiliate, SKY Cable, stayed flat in the first six months as subscription revenues remained unchanged.

Subscriber numbers increased by only 3 percent year-on-year.

Bayantel's total revenues of P2.3 billion was lower by 20 percent year-on-year.

The drop can be attributed to lower voice revenues due to declines in local service and international long distance.

LEC (local exchange carrier) subscribers of 277,181 as of end-June 2006 were slightly lower than the end-2005 count of 278,859.

Net loss for the period widened by .71 percent to P978.8 million from a loss of P572.8 million.

Nonetheless, Bayantel continues to be on track with its debt service commitments under its court-approved rehabilitation plan.

## JG Summit Q2 net income dips

JG SUMMIT HOLDINGS INC. of tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. said the second quarter net income due to parent equity holders fell sharply to P168.1 million from P953 million in the same quarter last year due to foreign exchange losses from the dollar debts of its subsidiaries.

Including minority interests, net income registered a loss of P210.9 million in the second quarter from P752.6 million in the same quarter last year.

First half earnings was P4.05 billion compared with P1.7 billion in the same period last year due to gains from the sale of some of its shares in Universal Robina Corp. last February.

The sale had cut JG Summit's equity in URC to 59 percent from 86 percent.

Consolidated revenues rose 23.5 percent to P40.31 billion from P32.64 billion last year, driven by the continued improvement in sales and revenues of JG Summit's core businesses—foods and real estate development, plus revenues from its petrochemicals business.

Financing costs in the six month period rose 11 percent to P3.85 billion from P3.47 billion due to an increase in debts.

Its food arm Universal Robina Corp. reported net income grew 15 percent in the first half to P1.4 billion from P1.2 billion last year.

*Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

## EARNINGS

### EPCIB reports 11% growth in net profits

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's third largest bank, posted an 11 percent growth in net profits to P1.27 billion in the first semester over a year ago on higher fee-based income. EPCIBank's first-half performance was bolstered by robust growth in non-interest income and controlled operating expenses.

Its non-interest income climbed by 16 percent year-on-year to P4.3 billion, driven by the 11-percent rise in service charges, fees, and commissions. Trading gains and foreign exchange profits of P893 million were also realized, while operating expenses were kept at P6.57 billion due to conscious efforts to control costs.

***Doris C. Dumlao***

### RCBC's net profit up by 60%

The Yuchengco's Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. reported a net profit of P524 million in the first half, 60 percent higher than the level chalked up in the same period last year.

RCBC's net interest income improved by 22.9 percent from P2.88 billion to P3.54 billion, mainly due to the higher interest earned from investment securities and better spreads.

RCBC and its consolidated subsidiaries set aside P719 million in provision for impairment losses. It also recently generated over P130 million from the sale of foreclosed assets in two public auctions.

RCBC, the country's 10th biggest bank, is preparing to issue P1 billion worth of preferred shares and P5 billion worth of hybrid tier 1 capital in order to beef up its capital ratios.

***Doris C. Dumlao***

### San Miguel food group revenues up 7%

The San Miguel Food Group (SMFG), buoyed by higher volumes from poultry, pork and flour, said that its first half revenues grew 7 percent to P31.2 billion from the same period last year, the company said in a disclosure.

SMFG consists of San Miguel Pure Foods, the meats business under Monterey Foods Corp., and the agribusiness division.

SMFG's operating income was P1 billion with its agro-industrial cluster, composed of poultry, basic meats and feeds businesses contributing P844 million, 28 percent better than the 2005 level.

Magnolia Inc. also experienced improved sales volumes in butter, margarine and cheese, ready-to-drink milk, and ice cream, contributing to first half revenue of P2.1 billion, up 14 percent from 2005.

Meanwhile, the net income of San Miguel's hard liquor business fell 40 percent to P331.9 million in the first half, from P552.8 million in the same semester last year.

Despite strong domestic sales, over-all sales volume declined by 5 percent due to soft export volumes. Sales revenue declined to P6.15 billion in the first half from P6.24 billion last year.

***Elizabeth L. Sanchez***

### Pancake House net income up 212%

PANCAKE HOUSE INC. said its net income expanded 212 percent to P20 million in the first half from P6.4 million in the same period last year driven by its flagship restaurant operations. The net income includes minority interests.

The dramatic drop in Dencio's losses to P1.6 million from P10.8 million also boosted results.

Japanese fast food chain Teriyaki Boy contributed P4.8 million to net income. Consolidated revenues grew 81 percent to P637.5 million in the first half from P351.4 million last year.

***Elizabeth L. Sanchez***

### Digitel posts net loss

The Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (Digitel) reported that its net earnings had hit P1.443 billion in the half-year that ended on June 30, posting a loss of P400,000 from the P1.087 billion it registered in the same period last year.

The telco is a majority-owned subsidiary of JG Summit Holdings, Inc. Digitel said in a report that it has recorded a consolidated EBITDA of P1.141 billion for the first six months against P1.440 billion for the same period last year. The company also reported consolidated loss before income tax of P1.45 billion in the first half.

***Riza T. Olchondra***

### DMCI consolidated income hit P844M

CONSTRUCTION FIRM DMCI Holdings Inc. reported a consolidated income of P844 million in the first six months from P435 million in the same period last year due to significant improvements in its construction, coal and real estate businesses. This year, DMCI also recorded a gain of P356 million from the sale of shares.

DMCI's coal mining business, which is operated by Semirara Mining Corp., continues to experience relative progress in operations. DMCI owns 58 percent of the publicly listed mining firm.

***Elizabeth L. Sanchez***

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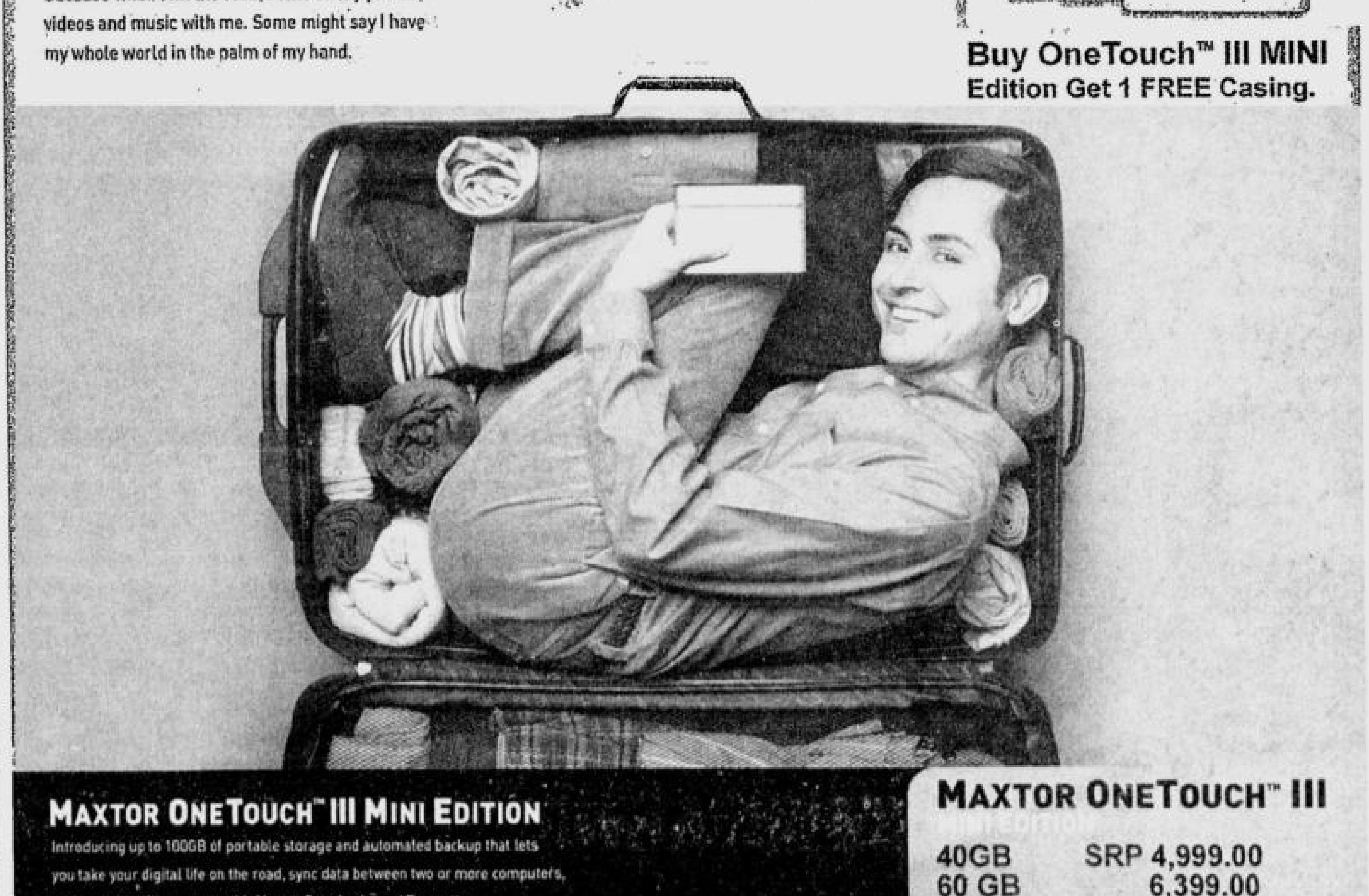

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# Gokongwei disinheritance

## COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

JOHN GOKONGWEI JR. HAS EFfectively disinherited his six children from his more than P10 billion worth of shareholdings in JG Summit.

"I guess the grandchildren will have to stop at [the present] nine," joked Lance Gokongwei, after his father announced Friday that the taipan, marking his 80th birthday, was relinquishing his personal shareholdings in JG Summit in favor of the group's charity fund.

With that announcement, Mr. John has effectively transformed his CEO, youngest brother James, and Mr. John's children, nephews and nieces employed in JG Summit into stewards for the family's charity foundation, which would become JG Summit's biggest shareholder at more than 41 percent, post-donation.

And, in one swoop, Mr. John has effectively preserved the fabulous Gokongwei wealth he has built in 50 years from any future inheritance squabble.

Instead of being endlessly being divvied into private trust accounts, the Gokongwei inheritance and all its future earnings have been pledged to educational endowments.

"The children have all been taken care of," even prior to the donation, said JG Summit director Gabriel C. Singson, without elaborating.

With his father's divestment, Lance now becomes the biggest individual shareholder whose JG Summit shares are held under personal, not in corporate or numbered, accounts.

The Gokongwei heir is listed as owning the equivalent of 3.46 percent of JG Summit, including those shares in so-called "and/or" accounts held by his father and mother Elizabeth for him.

That shareholding has a current market value of P1.46 billion, a respectable neighborhood for someone who is only turning 40 in November.

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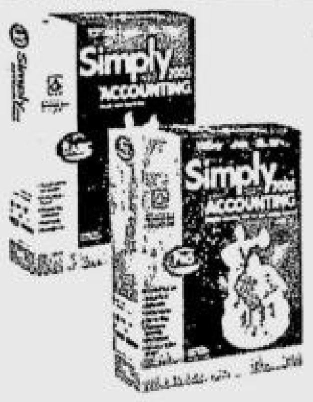

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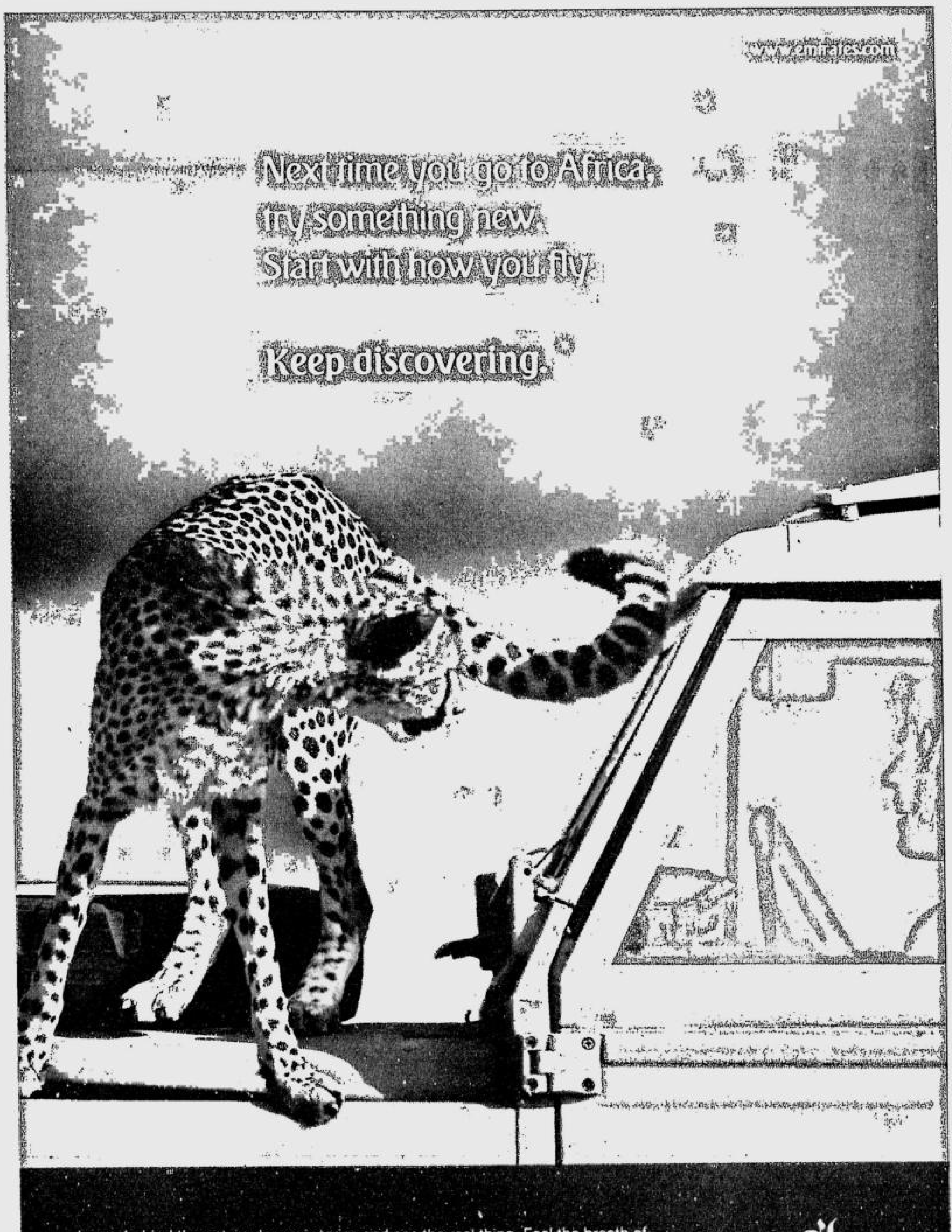
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# Jollibee posts 15.3% growth in first-half profit to ₱1.05B

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

FAST FOOD GIANT JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. said its net income grew 15.3 percent in the first half to P1.05 billion from P910.5 million a year ago, boosted by new stores and contributions from Red Ribbon Bakeshop.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), it said net income rose 10 percent in the second quarter to P601.7 million from P547.3 million in the same period last year.

Jollibee chair Tony Tan Caktiong said the company was expanding its store network to increase market share and to be able to build stronger foundations for future businesses.

Consolidated revenues in the first half rose 14.7 percent to P16 billion from P13.9 billion a year ago. Revenues measure all sales by company-owned stores, commissaries, royalty and franchise fees and rental and service revenues.

Total system-wide sales, a measure of all sales to consumers both from company-owned and franchised stores, grew 13.5 percent in the first half to P21.8 billion year-on-year.

Jollibee sales here and abroad in the first half grew 6 percent; Chowking sales rose 10.6 percent; Greenwich's was weaker by 5.2 percent; Delifrance's rose 8.8 percent and Yonghe King's grew 14.7 percent.

Jollibee said that while the company reported double-digit growth in sales, there were indications that in general, consumers' visits to fast-food stores during the second quarter were not as frequent as last year. This trend showed that the increases in the cost of utilities have continued to affect consumer behavior of eating out.

The company opened 84 stores worldwide during the first half with the bulk in the Philippines: Jollibee (28), Chowking (18) and Red Ribbon (15). Abroad, Yonghe King opened 7, Jollibee launched one in Vietnam, Red Ribbon expanded by one store in the US and Chowking put up a store each in the United States and Dubai.

# ABS-CBN net income up 142% in January-June

**By Riza T. Olchondra**

ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORP. more than doubled its net income in the first half of 2006 to P516 million from P211 million in the same period last year.

The company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it was beginning to reap the benefits of cost-cutting efforts that were initiated since last year. Gross airtime revenues likewise remained stable.

Total capital expenditure, including program rights acquisition, amounted to P227 million in the first half of 2006, 16 percent lower compared with last year as the company controlled capital spending to prioritize scheduled loan payments.

ABS-CBN also disclosed that since 2005, it has begun the canning or advanced taping of some shows in order to cut location rentals and maximize efficiencies from production planning.

Total revenues, consisting of gross airtime income, sale of services, license fees, and sale of goods grew, 7 percent year-on-year to P8.36 billion from P7.82 billion a year ago.

Consolidated gross airtime revenues went up slightly to P5.14 billion from P5.1 billion.

Production cost for the period declined 5 percent to P2.67 billion from P2.83 billion the previous year. Excluding noncash charges such as depreciation and amortization of program rights, cash production cost dropped by 4 percent to P2.02 billion.

Operating expenses increased 2 percent to P7.33 billion due to higher cash operating expenses, which rose 5 percent even as noncash operating expenses dropped.

Noncash operating expenses, composed primarily of depreciation and amortization, went down 14 percent to P982 million from P1.15 billion.

ABS-CBN Global posted a 3-percent decline in sales to P1.7 billion as direct-to-home (DTH) subscription revenues in North America were reduced by half following the revenue-sharing deal with DirecTV.

# GMA 7 reports slight drop in 6-month profit to ₱934M

GMA NETWORK INC. POSTED A net income of P934 million in the first half of 2006, slightly lower than the profit in the same period last year largely due to higher production costs for new channel QTV.

In a statement, the network said its consolidated gross revenues grew 13 percent to P5.2 billion for the first half from P4.6 billion in 2005 due to steady airtime sales from Channel 7 and additional subscription revenues from international Pinoy TV operations.

However, operating expenses jumped 35 percent to P2.8 billion due to higher production cost and expenses related to its new businesses.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization or Ebitda stood at P1.9 billion for the first half, almost flat compared to previous year's.

As of June this year, GMA has maintained its lead in both Metro Manila and Mega Manila TV ratings in all day parts, including the highly contested primetime block. As of June this year, GMA Network has kept hold of the TV ratings lead based on data from AGBNMR Philippines, posting a Mega Manila total day (6 a.m. to midnight) ratings average of 17.9 points versus rival ABS-CBN's 12.1.

GMA Network will also spend more than P168 million for the upgrade of its transmitters and other facilities in various key areas in the provinces.

*Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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| Investment Fund | One-year Return (July 12, 2005 to July 12, 2006) |
|---|---|
| Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund | 17.18%** |
| Philamlife Global Bond Fund | 7.27%** |

*Source: BusinessWorld Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines 2005 (based on 2004 performance)

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# Shares up slightly

From page B1

"Market activity was largely focused on small caps on speculative play amid a dearth of market-moving news," DA Market Securities president Nestor Aguila said.

"At the same time, there's still unease over what's going on in the Middle East."

Investors remained tentative despite a drop in crude oil prices after a UN-brokered ceasefire in Lebanon went into effect and news that British Petroleum would maintain half of its output in Alaska.

The day's most actively traded stock was Megaworld Corp. which rose 8 centavos or 5.48 percent to P1.54 after the company reported strong profit growth.

Conglomerate Ayala Corp. was up P7.50 at P422.50, while Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. closed flat at P2,015. *AFP*

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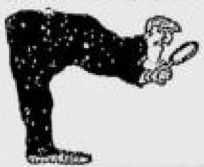

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## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 15, 2006)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FINANCIAL |  |  |  |  |  |
| BANKS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 13,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 32.5 | 32.5 | 32 | 32.5 | 182,200 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 52 | 52.5 | 52 | 52 | 839,500 |
| China Banking Corp. | 705 | 705 | 705 | 705 | 700 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 20.5 | 20.5 | 20.5 | 20.5 | 400 |
| Export and Ind. Bank A | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 250,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 78 | 79 | 78 | 79 | 100,600 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 38.5 | 39 | 38 | 38 | 230,100 |
| Philippine National Bank | 34.5 | 34.5 | 34.5 | 34.5 | 45,000 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 42 | 42 | 40 | 42 | 7,800 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 16.75 | 17 | 16.75 | 17 | 16,500 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 48 | 49 | 48 | 49 | 525,600 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 45.5 | 45.5 | 45.5 | 45.5 | 34,600 |
| OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Citiseconline.Com Inc. | 1.82 | 1.82 | 1.82 | 1.82 | 177,000 |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30.5 | 5,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1610 | 1610 | 1610 | 1610 | 1,000 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 20,000 |
| Phil. Stock Exchange Inc. | 219 | 219 | 219 | 219 | 990 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1900 | 1900 | 1900 | 1900 | 560 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1,034,000 |
| INDUSTRIAL |  |  |  |  |  |
| ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER |  |  |  |  |  |
| First Gen Corp. | 42 | 42.5 | 42 | 42.5 | 10,500 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 42.5 | 42.5 | 42 | 42 | 692,200 |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 16.25 | 16.5 | 16 | 16.25 | 46,900 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 25 | 25 | 24.75 | 24.75 | 716,900 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 7,891,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 4.15 | 4.25 | 4.1 | 4.25 | 933,000 |
| East Asia Power Res. Corp. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 20,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 29,000 |
| CADP Group Corp. | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 1,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 23.5 | 23.5 | 23.5 | 23.5 | 18,400 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 208,500 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.85 | 0.85 | 0.81 | 0.81 | 690,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 3.75 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 1,525,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 64 | 64.5 | 64 | 64.5 | 41,600 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 74.5 | 74.5 | 73 | 73.5 | 57,000 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 18.75 | 18.75 | 18.75 | 18.75 | 115,500 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 400,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES |  |  |  |  |  |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 400,000 |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 1.58 | 1.6 | 1.58 | 1.6 | 1,458,000 |
| Fortune Cement Corp. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 11,000 |
| Holcim Philippines Inc. | 4.75 | 4.8 | 4.75 | 4.75 | 1,650,000 |
| Republic Cement Corp. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 33,000 |
| DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.43 | 0.47 | 0.43 | 0.47 | 91,360,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.0775 | 0.0775 | 0.0775 | 0.0775 | 1,100,000 |
| HOLDING FIRMS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 3,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 415 | 422.5 | 415 | 422.5 | 142,160 |
| Alsons Cons. Res. Inc. | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 100,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 4.95 | 5 | 4.95 | 5 | 181,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.031 | 0.032 | 24,400,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 1.86 | 1.88 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 397,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 366,000,000 |
| Baguio Gold Holdings Corp. | 2.8 | 2.85 | 2.8 | 2.85 | 146,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc. | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 10,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 5,280,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 4.05 | 4.05 | 4.05 | 4.05 | 1,876,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 10,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 21,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.205 | 0.22 | 0.2 | 0.205 | 2,070,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.32 | 0.41 | 0.32 | 0.39 | 3,980,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 1,800,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1,220,000 |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 75,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.56 | 0.56 | 0.56 | 0.56 | 50,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 210,000 |
| SM Investments Corp. | 215 | 216 | 213 | 216 | 76,420 |
| Unioil Res. & Holdings Co. | 0.13 | 0.14 | 0.12 | 0.14 | 38,750,000 |
| Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 2,100,000 |
| PROPERTY |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 13.25 | 13.5 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 2,092,100 |
| Belle Corp. | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1 | 1 | 1,500,000 |
| A Brown Company Inc. | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 10,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.32 | 0.33 | 0.32 | 0.33 | 2,100,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 2.16 | 2.16 | 2.14 | 2.14 | 1,537,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 7,200,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.46 | 0.48 | 0.46 | 0.47 | 9,720,000 |
| Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1,710,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.048 | 0.048 | 11,700,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc | 1.34 | 1.38 | 1.34 | 1.36 | 4,936,000 |
| Interport Res. | 0.006 | 0.0065 | 0.006 | 0.0065 | 38,000,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc. | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 10,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 150,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.48 | 1.56 | 1.48 | 1.54 | 54,008,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.235 | 1,030,000 |
| Philippine Estates Corp. | 0.175 | 0.175 | 0.175 | 0.175 | 100,000 |
| Polar Property Holdings | 1.32 | 2.24 | 1.32 | 2.22 | 30,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 35,500 |
| Phil Realty And Holdings | 0.41 | 0.42 | 0.41 | 0.42 | 1,740,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.7 | 1.72 | 1.7 | 1.72 | 179,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 7.9 | 8 | 7.9 | 8 | 3,102,000 |
| Suntrust Home Dev. Inc. | 0.58 | 0.59 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 380,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 200,000 |
| MEDIA |  |  |  |  |  |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 17 | 17 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 2,900 |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 1.38 | 1.38 | 1.3 | 1.32 | 2,879,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 1015 | 1015 | 1000 | 1010 | 15,510 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 3.65 | 3.7 | 3.65 | 3.7 | 2,261,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 2015 | 2015 | 2010 | 2015 | 29,670 |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.185 | 0.205 | 0.185 | 0.2 | 24,700,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 2.18 | 2.32 | 2.18 | 2.2 | 2,119,000 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.047 | 0.05 | 0.047 | 0.05 | 18,200,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.0625 | 0.0675 | 0.0625 | 0.0625 | 124,400,000 |
| Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 65,000 |
| Transpacific Broadband | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 30,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.031 | 0.031 | 0.031 | 0.031 | 43,800,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES |  |  |  |  |  |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 14.75 | 14.75 | 14.75 | 14.75 | 1,277,700 |
| HOTEL & LEISURE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Acesite Phils Hotel Corp. | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 1,630,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.28 | 1.4 | 1.28 | 1.4 | 6,692,000 |
| Manila Jockey Club | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 181,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 800,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 100,000 |
| EDUCATION |  |  |  |  |  |
| IPeople Inc. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 302,000 |
| DIVERSIFIED SERVICES |  |  |  |  |  |
| Macroasia Corp. | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.06 | 2.06 | 211,000 |
| Paxys Inc. | 10.25 | 10.5 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 189,600 |
| MINING |  |  |  |  |  |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 4.7 | 4.9 | 4.65 | 4.75 | 3,974,000 |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. B | 4.75 | 4.9 | 4.65 | 4.75 | 2,469,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 65,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 784,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 5,100,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 560,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.022 | 0.023 | 0.022 | 0.022 | 229,000,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.027 | 0.027 | 0.027 | 0.027 | 30,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0095 | 0.0095 | 0.0095 | 0.0095 | 441,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 4.35 | 4.45 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 2,265,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 4.45 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.35 | 2,317,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 25.5 | 26 | 25.5 | 26 | 44,000 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 820,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 60,000 |
| OIL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 190,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.011 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 51,100,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 5,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 50,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 81,200 |
| PREFERRED |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ayala Corp. Pref. B | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series V | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,200 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series X | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 2,100 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 800 |
| WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC. |  |  |  |  |  |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 444,100 |

## DISCLOSURES

**MEDCO Holdings Inc.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 15, 10 a.m. at the Ballroom 3 of the Mandarin Oriental in Makati. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 16 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

***

THE BOARD of Directors of **Ionics Inc.** has formally accepted the resignation of Jan D. Doets as director on Aug. 11. Meanwhile, Lawrence C. Qua will assume Mr. Doets position as president/COO in an acting capacity. ***Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research***

## CURRENCIES

| August 15, 2006<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.786535 | 1.000000 | 51.2990 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.006739 | 0.008568 | 0.4395 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.484427 | 1.887300 | 96.8166 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.101116 | 0.128559 | 6.5949 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.632924 | 0.804699 | 41.2803 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.697839 | 0.887233 | 45.5142 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.497397 | 0.632391 | 32.4410 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.598171 | 0.760514 | 39.0136 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.086465 | 2.652731 | 136.0824 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.209737 | 0.266660 | 13.6794 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.495830 | 0.630398 | 32.3388 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000087 | 0.000110 | 0.0056 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.021061 | 0.026777 | 1.3736 |
| Uae | Dirham | 0.214151 | 0.272272 | 13.9673 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.271400 | 65.2215 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.256200 | 0.325733 | 16.7098 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.364862 | 0.463886 | 23.7969 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134026 | 0.170401 | 8.7414 |
| India | Rupee | 0.016907 | 0.021496 | 1.1027 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.213907 | 0.271961 | 13.9513 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.072548 | 0.092238 | 4.7317 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.496926 | 0.631792 | 32.4103 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.124738 | 0.158592 | 8.1356 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.114873 | 0.146049 | 7.4922 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000815 | 0.001036 | 0.0531 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.024063 | 0.030594 | 1.5694 |

# Property boom lifts Megaworld profit to ₱864M

## ₱5.4-B reservation sales in 1st half matches record for whole of 2005

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

MEGAWORLD CORP. SAID ITS net income surged 58 percent in the first half of 2006 to P864 million from P545 million in the same period last year, reflecting the resurgence in the local property sector.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the company said the net income was boosted by revenues from the sale of residential lots and condominium and office units.

Consolidated revenues—composed of real estate sales, rental income, hotel income, interest income and other revenues—grew 22 percent to P3.3 billion from P2.7 billion from strong property sales and an increase in leasing and hotel operations.

Bulk of the revenues came from the sale of residential lots, condominium and office units at 75 percent of the total or P2.49 billion, up 19 percent from P2.1 billion in the same period last year.

Rental income contributed 10 percent to total revenues at P323 million from P268.2 million a year ago.

Total costs and expenses rose 13 percent in the first half from a year ago. The company said efficient cost management coupled with higher prices of condominium units lifted gross margins from real estate sales by 39 percent in 2006.

Reservation sales surged to P5.4 billion in the first six months of 2006. This almost equaled the total volume that Megaworld generated for the whole of 2005.

"Megaworld's impressive revenue performance in the first semester of the year is an indicator of an increasingly buoyant property market," said executive director Kingson Sian.

He said the company was expected to meet its growth targets especially with the launching of two new major projects last month—the Manhattan Garden City in Araneta Center and Cityplace in Manila's Chinatown.

Manhattan Garden City, located in the heart of Cubao, is a 9,000-unit residential condominium project linked directly to the Gateway Mall and two light-rail transit lines, LRT-2 and MRT-3, making it the first major mass-transit-oriented residential development in the country.

Cityplace is a mixed-use development with 2,000 residential units, a retail center, BPO offices and a hotel. It is the first major urban renewal project in Manila covering an entire 2.5-hectare block in the center of Chinatown.

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## China Bank: 86 years of making your success, its business

The year 2006 marks China Bank's 86 years of successful operations. The first privately owned commercial bank in the Philippines, China Bank was founded by Dr. Albino Z. Sycip and Dee C. Chuan in August 16, 1920. With a modern Chinese organization structure, and guided with professional management and an in-depth understanding of the way Filipino-Chinese businessmen do business, the Bank steadily grew and flourished.

Today, China Bank is one of the strongest-capitalized, most profitable, and most trusted banks in the country. In 2005, its net income reached P3.04 billion – one of the highest among local banks, and for the last three consecutive years, it posted record earnings averaging P3 billion per year. This year, China Bank was cited as the best bank and second best company in Corporate Governance by the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), together with first place PLDT and third place Ayala Corporation.

China Bank continues to develop and offer customer-focused, innovative products and services. The Bank invested in leading technology and improved operations to deliver even more personalized and responsive service.

**Making dream homes a reality**

China Bank is committed to help its clients buy, build or renovate their dream homes by making its home financing package, *China Bank HomePlus*, even easier on the budget. Early this year, China Bank dropped its home loan rate from 9.75% p.a. to 9% p.a., fixed for one year – the lowest in the industry. It still continues to offer the same low rate alongside other low fixed rates for clients who want to have the interest rate fixed for up to 10 years as protection from future rate increases. The success of HomePlus was recognized as the "Most Outstanding Real Estate Financing Product" by Asian and Marketing Awards, Philippine Star Brands, Philippine Quality Awards for Business Excellence, and by the thousands of HomePlus borrowers who finally have a place to call their own, including Mr. and Mrs. Rodolfo Ramos of Quezon City who are happy to be paying only a little over P15,000 a month for their 15-year P1.5 million housing loan.

**Making remittance easy and on-time**

China Bank launched the *China Bank On-time Remittance*, to help the millions of OFWs bring home the fruits of their labor the fast, secure and affordable way. And for those who do not have bank accounts, it also launched the *China Bank On-time Remittance Card*, a PIN (personal identification number)-based reloadable cash card that works like an ATM card. The Bank's remittance service is available through its remittance partners in the US, Singapore, Qatar, and UAE. Mrs. Anita Dansalan of Dagupan, Pangasinan, is one of those benefiting from China Bank's fast and reliable remittance service. China Bank alerts her on her cellphone every time her remittances arrive. She then conveniently withdraws the money sent by her daughter who is a nurse in California, USA, through any ATM in the Philippines.

**Making banking convenient and secure**

China Bank has always kept abreast of banking innovations. It was the first local bank to offer phone banking in 1988, and in 2005, launched its Internet and mobile banking platform, *China Bank Online*. It is the only Internet banking facility in the country that has the "Alerts" feature that can be customized to keep clients' posted via email or text message on matters involving their accounts. Mr. Raphael Tan, a product manager of a multi-national manufacturing company in Manila, is one of the many who enjoy the convenience of paying bills online, anytime, without having to leave their homes or offices. Even when Mr. Tan is on the road, he can check his account balance, even reload his phone.

**Making cash management more efficient**

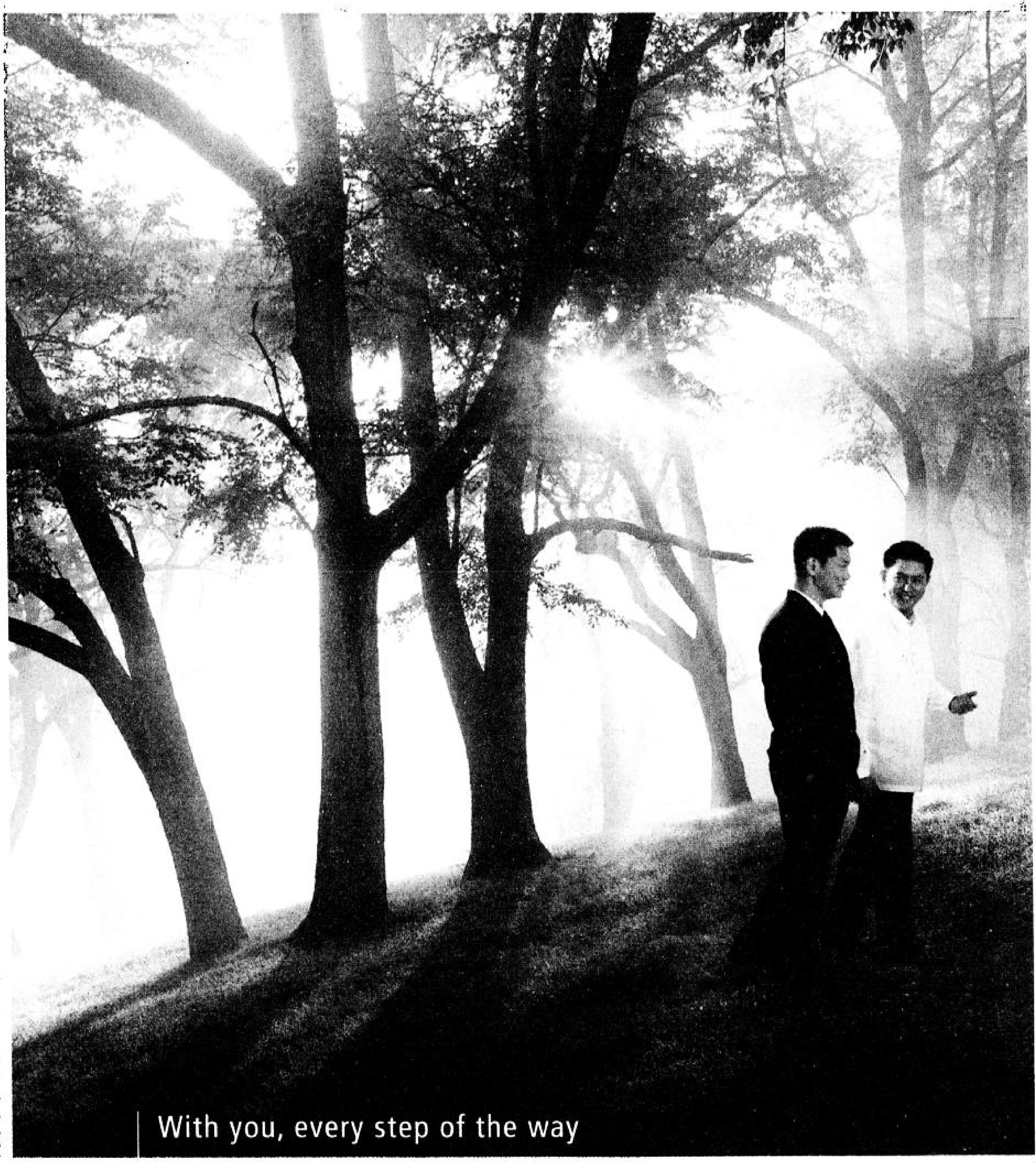
China Bank offers a flexible range of corporate solutions. *China Bank Online – Corporate* is designed to efficiently manage the funds of corporate clients. China Bank also has a full suite of *Cash Management* products and services – a whole range of business solutions for a more efficient and secure liquidity, collections, and disbursements management. Delos Santos Medical Center is among the first to sign up for China Bank's Cash Management Services, particularly corporate e-banking. The company's vice president, Mr. Dondi Delos Santos, find real value in how these solutions put him on top of their company's finances at less time and effort. Cash management helped streamline their day-to-day company operations, freeing up more of his resources and valuable time for matters that require greater attention in managing the business.

**Making futures brighter, businesses grow, then, now, and in the years to come**

Universal Robina Corp.'s Mr. John Gokongwei, is one of China Bank's loyal clients since 1957. An untried newcomer back then, China Bank granted him a P500,000 clean loan when the other banks turned him down. With that loan and his continuous relationship with China Bank, Mr. Gokongwei was able to make his fledging enterprise in the fifties into a manufacturing giant.

China Bank offers a wide range of deposit, trust, investment, consumer lending, corporate financing, and insurance products and services – all developed around the clients' varied needs and requirements and delivered with warmth and the highest level of professionalism.

China Bank has indeed come along way from its humble beginnings in 1920. Now, 86 years and 141 branches and 215 ATMs later, China Bank remains deeply committed to making its clients' success its business.


With you, every step of the way

For more than eight decades, you have given us the privilege to be partners in making your visions come true. When all you had was the resolve to succeed, we stood by your goals, kept in stride with your aspirations and found motivation in your determination. As we celebrate our 86th year, we remain a steadfast ally. We will continue to journey with you, dream with you and achieve with you. After all, your success is our business.

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# Treasury to offer ₱20B worth of 10-year bonds for swapping

## 2nd phase of a program aimed at stretching gov't debt maturity

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF THE TREASURY yesterday said it would offer as much as P20 billion in new 10-year bonds for a bond swap arrangement to investors holding government securities that would mature between September 2007 and April 2016.

CRUZ

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the exercise would further stretch the average maturity of the government's domestic debts.

The investors, for their part, would benefit from the swap in terms of higher yields, as new rates would be set for the newly issued government securities.

However, the BTr has yet to announce the date for the setting of the interest rates.

Cruz said the bond swap would be voluntary and that the BTr would invite those holding securities maturing between September 2007 and April 2016 to exchange them for the 10-year benchmark bonds.

This will be the second phase of the BTr's debt consolidation program.

In the first phase, held last February and March, the government exchanged newly issued 3-, 5-, and 7-year bonds for old government securities.

"We are confident that the market will recognize the benefits of this exchange and ensure that the second phase will be just as, if not more, successful than the first phase," Cruz said in a statement.

Under the first bond swap offered this year, some P122 billion worth of new bonds were exchanged for old government securities. The BTr said this stretched the average maturity of the government's domestic debts by one year to 5.7 years from the previous 4.7 years.

The government considered the earlier bond swap a success, as the debt consolidation program attracted a huge volume of bids from investors.

Records showed that the bids for the 5- and 7-year bonds reached a total of P54 billion—P34 billion for the 5-year and P20 billion for the 7-year bonds. The total bids for the 5 -and 7-year bonds were higher than the P45 billion offered for swap by the government.

"The second phase will further consolidate the domestic bond market and increase the attractiveness of Philippine peso denominated debt," Cruz said.

The agency said it had again tapped Credit Suisse as the financial arranger for the new bond swap.

Cruz said the move to implement another bond swap was prompted by requests from the capital market and the success of the first phase of the program.

# Biofuels bill seen signed into law by October

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BIOFUELS BILL IS EXPECTED TO BE signed into law by October, paving the way for the entry of new investments into the alternative fuels industry.

In a briefing yesterday, bill author and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said the version of the bill for third reading should be ready by the first week of September.

A bicameral report should be completed shortly after that, and the bill is expected to be ratified before Sept. 22, the planned congressional recess, he said.

"We might have a law by October," he said.

Zubiri said this meant investments would likely start coming in. He said lenders were reluctant to release funds for ethanol projects pending the approval of the Biofuels bill.

He said that in a recent meeting, Development Bank of the Philippines officials said the bank would not be releasing any loan for ethanol-related projects until the bill was signed into law.

In an earlier statement, the Philippine Fuel Ethanol Alliance said the delay in the passage of the pending Biofuels bill was hindering the progress of ethanol projects in the country.

The group said potential investors wanted the legislation in place before making any investment decision as the law would determine the size of the demand for alternative fuels.

The Biofuels bill mandates the sale and use of bio-ethanol at blends ranging from 5 percent to 10 percent.

The Ethanol Alliance said the passage of the bill would generate a guaranteed annual demand of between 200 million and 400 million liters of ethanol.

This, the group said, would encourage prospective investors to infuse capital into the industry.

According to the group's estimates, at least 14 ethanol production facilities with capacities of at least 100,000 liters a day would be needed to meet the expected ethanol demand once the bill is passed.

Using industry benchmarks, the group placed the required investment to construct, develop and maintain such facilities at P2 billion per unit.

# *Apec urged to push for Doha talks revival*

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE 21-MEMBER ASIA-PACIFIC Economic Cooperation has to make an effort to push for the revival of talks that would bring forward a global, multilateral trading system, according to a former director general of the World Trade Organization.

Supachai Panitchpakdi, who is now secretary general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, said Apec leaders should assess the group's contributions in developing multilateralism and realize the influence it has in the field of international trade.

Supachai took office at the Unctad when his three-year term at the WTO expired in 2005.

A former deputy prime minister of Thailand, Supachai represented his country in the signing of the previous Uruguay Round of talks when it was concluded in 1994.

"Apec can help pick up the pieces of the (collapsed) WTO Doha Development Round by focusing on issues left over (in the talks)," the economist said.

Hopes of wrapping up the DDR crumbled when leading economies could not agree on the removal of export subsidies and other contested matters during a meeting last month.

Supachai said Apec needed to be recognized as a group in the WTO amidst the many groupings such as the G6, G20, G77 "all of which are pushing for particular interests."

"You need to go to Geneva as a group—a G-Apec—that can represent trade liberalization in its totality," he told the Apec Business Advisory Council during its meeting in Cebu over the weekend.

He said Apec could very well use its influence considering that Apec meetings do have bearings on WTO trade rounds.

"I remember the Apec meeting in (South Korea) when members agreed to use the so-called Swiss formula in tariff reduction for industrial products," Supachai said. "Soon after, the WTO adopted the Swiss cut for agricultural products."

He said that despite the "depressing" news on the deadlock of the DDR, hope for a successful conclusion should not be lost.

"The world cannot afford not to conclude the DDR," Supachai said. "What has been achieved so far is twice that of what we had in the Uruguay Round."

"If we do not finish the DDR, it would take so many years—maybe 10 years—to start a new round," he said. "We can see from the past rounds that one has a life cycle of 20 years."

He said that if the DDR was not concluded, there would be many trade disputes that would take so long to settle and would be disastrous to the global trading system.

Also, Supachai said there would be a lot of backsliding from current achievements if there were no successful round that would take trading rules into a higher level of improvement.

# ₱5-B loan for Smart network expansion OKd

By Doris C. Dumlao

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST CO., the country's largest bank, has approved a P5-billion multi-currency term loan for mobile phone giant Smart Communications Inc.

"This is the largest deal Metrobank has underwritten for any corporate borrower in recent history. We could have easily syndicated this facility but our taking on the entire P5 billion is our way of conveying our commitment to Smart and PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.)," Metrobank president Arthur Ty said in a statement yesterday.

Smart president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno said: "The loan is not only Smart's largest local borrowing in recent history; it is also its largest from a single Filipino bank."

Smart, the country's biggest wireless telephone provider, will use the loan to support its network upgrade and expansion.

"There is still room for growth in the business, as we continue to expand the range of our products and services. Smart is no longer just a cellular company. Like the rest of the PLDT Group, we are going broadband," Nazareno explained.

He said Smart's partnership with Metrobank had been tried and tested over the years as proven by the growing list of businesses between the two companies.

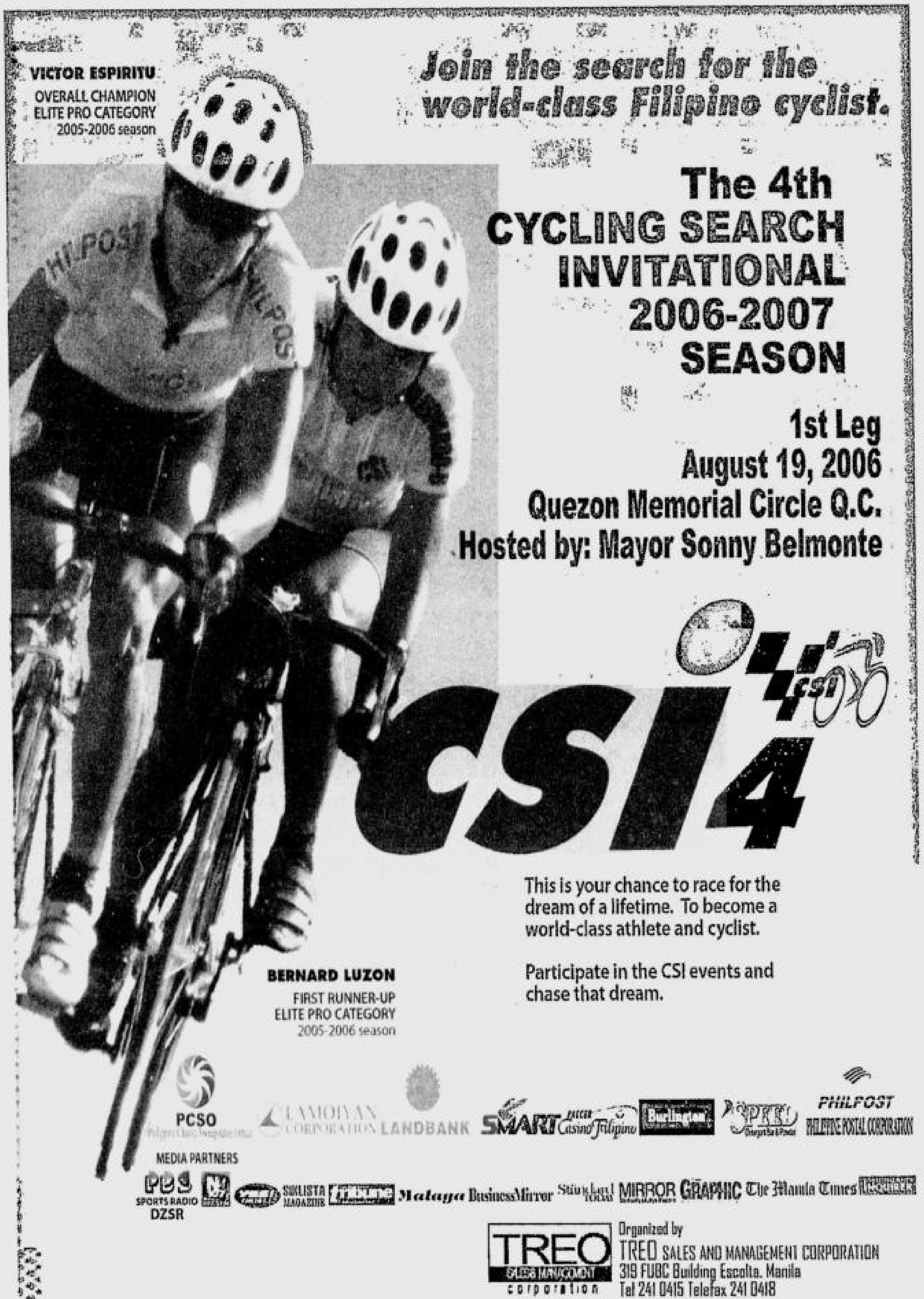
"The bank supports us with cash management services, trustee services for various Smart accounts, and participation in the 2014 Smart debt," Nazareno added.

First Metro Investment Corp., the investment banking arm of Metrobank, is the sole arranger of the term loan.

The bank remains the country's largest lender with P264.3 billion in consolidated net loans as of end-June.

The parent company reported a 35.1-percent increase in net income to P3.04 billion as of end-June 2006 from year-ago level.

It has consolidated assets of P593.9 billion as of June 2006. It operates over 800 international and domestic branches, offices, subsidiaries and affiliates.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# Cocktales

From page B3

rich-uncle claimants from Maserati distributor Wellington Soong. Price: P10.5 million each. Benefits: Unlimited "pogi" points.

- FORMER Tidcorp president Joel Valdes wishes to clarify that Malacañang has already cleared him of any irregularity attendant to Tidcorp's $4.8-million settlement with a US vulture fund over a letter of credit which is also being claimed by lawyer Vicente Chuidian.
- FORMER Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia nearly failed to rejoin the Management Association of the Philippines after his application was opposed by a few members, despite MAP president Evelyn Singson's strong endorsement.

### Heard through the grapevine

TWO Vasquez siblings have been fired from the Vasbuilt Group after a nasty family feud erupted over company expenses on a Forbes Park home being built by one of the brothers.

*(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)*

# GMA bars dubious firms . . .

From page B1

debenture that is under escrow.

Getting the 43 million barrels of oil in Malampaya is expected to cost $630 million. Camago-Malampaya operator Shell Philippines and Chevron have passed on the oil reserves to focus solely on gas reserves, which prompted the government to look for other parties to extract the oil.

With oil prices surging from $20 to $70 a barrel in just two years, extracting Malampaya's oil has become viable with its reserves estimated at $2 billion.

# OFW remittances . . .

From page B1

to 14.6 percent or 139,228.

"The rise in deployment mirrored the increasing demand for well-trained and better-equipped Filipino seafarers given the country's strict compliance with the standards of the International Maritime Organization," Tetangco said.

The deployment of land-based workers also picked up pace in the latter part of the second quarter after a slow start in the first quarter. Total deployment rose 9.2 percent in June to 79,992, resulting in a modest 2.4-percent growth in the first half to 447,591.

OFW inflows in the first half mostly came from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates.

The BSP recently raised its growth forecast on OFW remittances captured by the banking system this year to 11 percent from 10 percent as more higher-paid professionals join the global labor market.

The higher growth, however, was still small compared to the 25-percent year-on-year expansion in OFW inflows in 2005, when these remittances hit a historic high of $10.7 billion.

"We recognize that 2005 was high and growth in remittances may taper off. We'll still see growth (in the years ahead) but this won't be as high as what we've seen in early 2000," BSP director Iluminada Sicat said in an interview.

But Sicat said Philippine banks had made significant progress in attracting remittances previously coursed through informal channels, referring to unlicensed or unregulated operations such as friends, acquaintances or other travelers.

"Our banking channels here are very active. Not only do they establish their presence in places where we have a large deployment of Filipinos. In places where they don't have a presence, they establish tie-ups," Sicat said.

Compared to the profile of Filipinos leaving for abroad 10 to 15 years ago consisting mostly of unskilled workers, she said more professionals going abroad were able to send double or triple the average remittances in the past.

She added that the market share lost in some First World countries was being compensated by the expansion in demand in Asia.

"There are some countries which implemented stricter immigration policies like Japan and some countries in Europe, but fortunately some of the countries in Asia absorbed some of the excess deployed workers like Korea," Sicat said.

Sicat also underscored the impact of increased deployment of sea-based workers on remittance flows. "I highlight this group of sea-based workers simply because this group of workers covers those who apply the 80-20 percent rule on remittance."

"There's a law that requires seafarers to remit 80 percent of their wages to their beneficiaries and they sign a contract on this and open accounts for their beneficiaries even before they leave," Sicat said.

Seafarers account for 25 percent of OWFs.

# Palace threatens sweeping revamp in power sector

## President seeks to hasten sale of gov't 'crown jewels'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS stepping up what is described to be the biggest asset sales in the country's history by undertaking a wide-ranging revamp in the management of the government's power sector.

"There are many administrative problems, that's why I am having a revamp in the power sector machinery of the government so we can have a fresh look at what should be done to speed it up," the President said in an interview with Bloomberg. "We have our deficit management and revenue targets and we make decisions like these (sale of assets) on the basis of what we need to meet our targets and create jobs."

With the sale of the assets, the administration hopes to raise as much as P341 billion over the next six months.

At stake are some of the government's crown jewels—the assets of the National Transmission Co. (Transco) worth P150 billion, generation plants of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) worth P120 billion, and equity shares in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and San Miguel Corp.

The government next month will resume the auction of its power grid, two years after an aborted bidding where the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand posted the highest offer of $3.4 billion.

The government has likewise been slow in disposing of the total 5,900-megawatt power plant capacity of Napocor which was underscored by the botched bidding for the Masinloc power plant.

Joey Salceda, Albay representative and Ms Arroyo's economic adviser, said that the revamp "articulates the President's impatience, if not frustration," over the slowness of Napocor and Transco in selling off the assets.

"Only five small hydro-powered plants [were] sold since the [Electric Power Industry Reform Act] was enacted in June 2001," Salceda said. "This is puny compared to the target of 4,200 megawatts to be sold [worth] $4.2 billion."

Salceda noted that the law specifically mandated that 70 percent of Napocor's assets should have been sold not later than three years from EPIRA's effectivity.

Aside from power, the President also ordered the Department of Finance to speed up the sale of the government's 24 percent stake in San Miguel Corp., the country's biggest food and beverage firm, and 6.9 percent stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's largest telecommunication concern.

# DOF won't support plan to revive tax amnesty

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE is cool to a proposal in the Senate to revive the old plan of implementing an amnesty program for tax delinquents.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said that while tax amnesty was one of the fiscal reform measures being pushed by the DOF in 2004, it is no longer included in the agency's list of priorities.

Beltran said having a tax amnesty tends to discourage people from paying taxes on time, believing that the government would offer another amnesty in the future anyway. With an amnesty, tax evaders can get discounts on unpaid obligations.

"(Tax amnesty) only works best if it is done on a one-time basis," Beltran said. "It is not in our list of programs to push, but we can keep an open mind on it and see what other officials will say about it."

Tax amnesty was included in the original list of reform measures pushed by the Arroyo administration to address the government's fiscal problems. The DOF, concerned with fiscal matters, was the lead agency that lobbied for its legislation in 2004 during the term of then Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong.

But after Congress has enacted other fiscal reform measures, such as the VAT Reform law, the Lateral Attrition law and the Sin Tax law, the DOF said expected revenues from the measures would be enough to help the government meet the target of wiping out its budget deficit by 2008.

Under the DOF's previously proposed tax amnesty program, the government will require delinquent applicants who have not been caught by authorities to pay only an amnesty tax equivalent to 3 percent of their net worth instead of their total unpaid taxes. These applicants will also be spared from prosecution.

In return, the government will be able to beef up its revenues by immediately collecting taxes.

# DMCI seeks to acquire small power utilities

By Christine A. Gaylican

LISTED COMPANY DMCI HOLDings seeks to double its investments in power infrastructure projects and wants to acquire power facilities belonging to the small power utilities group (SPUG) of the National Power Corp. (Napocor).

DMCI has expressed interest in acquiring 3- to 6-megawatt power plants and has even signified its intent to bid for Napocor's SPUG in Masbate, DMCI chief financial officer Herbert Consunji said.

Consunji in an interview said that the acquisition would enable the company to sell directly to small and medium industrial users seeking lower-priced electricity.

"We would be willing to convert these diesel-fired plants into coal-fired facilities to minimize generation costs," Consunji said.

DMCI will also bid for Napocor's Calaca power plant.

The company, through its coal-mining firm Semirara Mining Corp., supplies the coal requirements of Calaca.

Semirara has a supply contract with the state-owned National Power Corp. for the Calaca power plant until 2010.

Consunji declined to comment if the company would consider improving its offer, but said DMCI was willing to negotiate with the government.

Calaca's second plant is the single biggest user of Semirara coal, which historically accounts for more than 50 percent of Semirara's total sales volume.

Actual volume sold to the Calaca power plant totaled 1.23 million metric tons last year, down from 1.45 million MT in 2004 due to the prolonged shutdown of the plant, following a failed maintenance check.

Meanwhile, Semirara is allotting P1.2 billion in capital expenditures this year to purchase additional equipment to increase coal production.

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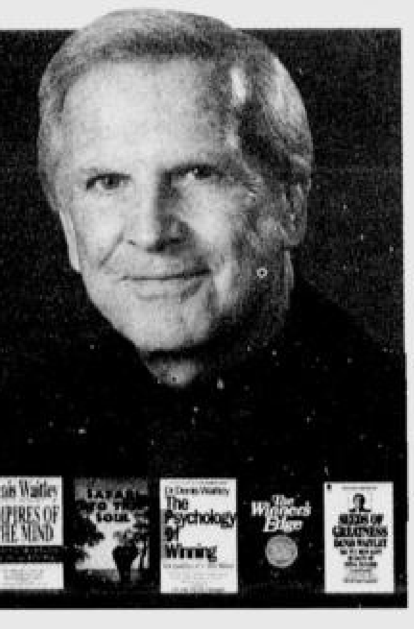

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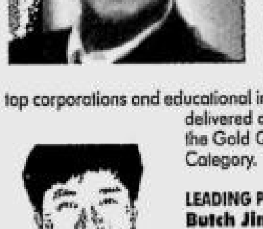
- Stephen Misa, Microsoft Philippines

**Best seminar I have ever attended!**
- Pedro Lim, Prulife, U.K.

**"Very Inspiring!"**
- Eva Calaguas, Ericsson Telecoms, Inc.

**"Excellent! Inspiring and very relevant in everyday life."**
- Ana Estabillo, Heidelberg Philippines



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LEADING PEOPLE FROM SUCCESS TO SIGNIFICANCE
**Butch Jimenez**
This inspiring individual will share stories and insights on how he set and achieved his goals and those of his team and how he continues to break records with his team as a top telecoms executive.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP
**Dylan Wilk**
Leaving a life of comfort and luxury behind to help build a movement for nation-building, this British-turned-Filipino shares what he saw in the Filipino that can make every one a hero.

ACHIEVING YOUR MOST CHALLENGING GOALS
**Roselle Ambubuyog**
Despite being totally blind from age six, Roselle overcame her handicap and graduated on top in her preparatory, elementary, secondary, and tertiary levels – now helping in finding screen access solutions for the blind and partially-sighted on mobile devices. How she achieved all that she will share.

**Call 8496977 and ask for Cristy or Elvie**
For sponsorship opportunities please e-mail Gina Meneses at gina@inspire.ph

**An international company with a regional office in Cebu is seeking to fill the following positions:**

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**An exciting opportunity for an Area Sales Manager to work with International Watch and Jewelry brands in the duty free field.**

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The Requirements

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- Minimum of 3 years sales management experience
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills; Computer literate

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We have an exciting opportunity for a Business Information Analyst. This position will provide sales information to our network of Account Managers.

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- Excellent numerical analysis skills

*Interested candidates should send in their CVs to:*

recruitment.ph2006@gmail.com or to **The Manager, GPO Box 191 CEBU CITY 6000**

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Bldg., Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Agriculture invites bonafide suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

| Item Description | Approved Budget for the Contract | Date/Time | | Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable) | End-user Agency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Pre Bid Conference | Deadline / Opening of Bids | | |
| 50 units Constructed Payaos | P 2,750,000.00 | Aug. 24, 2006 10:00 AM | Sept. 5, 2006 10:00 AM | Php 1,000.00 | BFAR |
| 100 rls PP Rope | P 1,450,000.00 | | | | |

The Bid documents shall be available at the BFAR Property Section starting Aug. 17 to 23, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shal be at BFAR Conference Room 3rd Flr., PCA Bldg., Elliptical Rd. Diliman Quezon City.

The Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three sealed envelopes in the bid located at the above mentioned address.

For more information, please call the BAC-Secretariat at Tel. Nos. 426-31-68.

BFAR reserves the right to waive any formality in the response to the eligibility requirements and to this Invitation. BFAR further reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding. or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI – August 16, 2006)

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A specialized workwhop in BMW cars has two vacancies:

### I-Mechanic & I-Electrician

Candidates are highly preferred to have experience in "GT1" or at least in "Model."
Accepted candidates will have:
1 – Housing (furnished and equipped)
2– Transportation
3– Reasonable salary
4– Bonus and/or commission (for active employee and team leaders)

CV to be sent to: Dennise Ann Cruel,
Email add: crueldenniseann@yahoo.com
Mobile No.# 0928-2810933 / 8819972
Address: CRUEL NET CAFÉ
1234 E. Jacinto St. Guadalupe, Makati City

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### DMCI HOMES PROJECT

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Pls. Contact VANGIE TAN at 0927-9263855

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

### BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Project/Brief Description** | One (1) lot supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of two (2) units, 312.4 KW each, Air Cooled Water Chiller System for the Assembly Hall per BSP plans, scope of works and specifications |
| **Approved Budget for the Contract** | P12,545,000.00 |
| **Contract Duration** | Within one hundred fifty (150) calendar days after receipt of Contract Agreement |

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | 16 August - 31 August 2006 not later than 1:30 PM |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference | 01 September 2006 4:00 PM Room MR2A |
| 3. Opening of Bids | 19 September 2006 2:00 PM Room MR2A |
| 4. Bid Evaluation | These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003 |
| 5. Post-qualification | |
| 6. Notice of Award | |

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P6,275.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI – August 16, 2006)

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·blic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

### BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

**A. COMMUNITY COORDINATION BUREAU (CCB)**

1. **ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER III** – Item Nos. OMBA-AGI03-15-1998; OMBA-AGIO3-16-1998 and OMBA-AGIO3-17-1998 (3 positions)

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: One (1) year of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

OR

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Two (2) years of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

**B. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION GROUP – ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT UNIT**

1. **CLERK III** – Item No. OMBA-CK3-39-1998

Education: Completion of 2 years studies in college; Experience: None required. Training: None required; Eligibility: CS Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility

**C. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL (OCLC)**

1. **ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I** – Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-5-1998

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

OR

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 6 months of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/ Second Level Eligibility

Applicants should submit within ten (10) calendar days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1"x1" picture (colored)
4) *Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) *Transcript of Records;
6) *Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7) *Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) *Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

* Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

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### NOTICE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
COUNTY OF WAKE
FILE NO. 06 SP 2405
IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF PAXTON EDWARD ONSTOTT

**TO: DAVID WESLEY ONSTOTT**

Take notice that a Special Proceeding has been commenced against you in the above referenced court and file. The Petitioner is seeking to adopt a male child who was born on May 19, 2001, in Sacramento, CA to Tracy Rae Johansen . This child was conceived on or about June 2000.

In order to participate in and receive further notice of the proceeding, including notice of the time and place of any hearing in this matter, you must file a response to the petition with the Wake Country Clerk of Superior Court, Post Office Box 351, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602, within forty (40) days of service on or before September 25, 2006.

IN THE EVENT YOU FAIL TO RESPOND THE PETITIONERS WILL ASK THE COURT FOR THE RELIEF SOUGHT WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU. THE ORDER FOR TERMINATION WILL TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THIS CHILD AND DIVEST YOU OF ALL RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO THE CHILD.

You should provide a copy of any response to the attorney for the Petitioner at the address indicated below.

Bobby D. Mills, Post Office Box 1677, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602 (919) 821-1860.

(PDI – August 16, 23 & 30, 2006)

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### NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **MAGNALAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** with SEC Registration No. 71154 has shortened its corporate existence effective December 31, 2005, and that the Amended Articles of Incorporation dissolving the corporation will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All persons having valid claims against said corporation are requested to present them at its office at the Roof deck, Multinational Bancorporation Centre, 6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, for settlement.

(Sgd.) **MELQUIADES T. MALABANAN**
Legal Counsel

(PDI--Aug. 2 & 9 & 16, 2006)

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FELICISIMO J. BAYRON was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc # 64, Page #13, Book #III, Series of 2006 under Notary Public Justo S. Lopez of Angono, Rizal.

(PDI – Aug. 9, 16 & 23, 2006)

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**More Classified Ads:**

*Supreme Court*.......................... **A4**
*Metro Roxas Water District*... **A19**

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## OBITUARIES

*Message of Thanks*

We, the family of the late

# LIGAYA CHANJUECO CALANTUAN

*who passed away on August 4, 2006*

wish to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to all those who offered Masses, prayers, sent cards and flowers, attended the religious services, and in countless ways condoled and gave us solace and strength in our bereavement.

Please include Ligaya in your prayers.

---

Our Beloved Sister

# TUBBY ROSE (INDAY) FERNANDEZ

## (TRINIDAD ROSA G. FERNANDEZ)

Daughter of the late **Col. Miguel R. Fernandez**
and the late **Esperanza Gutierrez-Fernandez**

Was born into eternal life on March 2nd, 2006
at 58 years of age in Valhalla, New York.

On Monday, August 21, 2006, a funeral Mass will be celebrated at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment of her ashes will follow immediately after the Mass.

**Nympha** and **Imre Weitzner, Jr.** and family
May and **Herman Santiago** and Family
**Leonor G. Beltran**

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**"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."**
—John 3:16

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### AMA BANK CELEBRATES 53RD ANNIVERSARY

**AMA BANK: The largest used car loan bank celebrated its 53rd Anniversary on June 23, 2006 at WackWack Golf & Country Club. The event was attended by AMA Bank Board of Directors headed by Chair/President Ambassador Amable R. Aguiluz V, Dir. Amable C. Aguiluz IX, Dir. Cielo C. Aguiluz, and Dir. Vicente R. Acsay. Also present in the celebration are Ma. Angela Aguiluz and Ma. Clara Aguiluz, Christine Aguiluz, and Christina Mikelle Aguiluz and Miguel Augusto Aguiluz. AMA Bank senior officers led by EVP/COO Alejandro C. Soliman were also present. The chairman together with Dir. Amable C. Aguiluz IX and AMA Bank EVP/COO Alejandro Soliman presented the Chairman's Century Award for attaining the 100 Million Deposit Level / Loan Level. The awardees for the deposit generation are: AVP Monina Javier, AVP Roberto Bombasi, AVP Raquel Magkamit, Branch Manager Faustino Javillonar and Branch Manager Lourdes Quitoriano. The awardees for the loan booking are: VP Edgardo Hugo, marketing officer Vincent Alvarez, marketing officer Pedrito Isidro and marketing officer James Casero.**

# COLONEL FERDINAND R. RUBIO, PAF, (Ret)

*Peacefully joined his Creator*
*on August 2, 2006 at the age of 63.*

His loving family, his wife **Adoracion**; his children **Maria Catherine, Maria Rowena** and **Abraham, Ferdinand, Jr.** and **Elizabeth**; grandchildren **Riel, Joshua, Samantha, Daniel** and **Alyssa Beth** and his brothers and sisters **Manuel** and **Siu Lian, Gracia** and **Joe, Angelina** and **Eliseo, Herminia** and **Robert, Edmundo** and **Aurora, Zenaida** and **Van, Rita** and **Russell, Romeo** and **Nenita** request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at Lot 13 Blk 3 Ventura St., Villa Victoria Subdivision, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 19, 2006 at Good Shepherd's Memorial Park at 12:00 noon after the 9:00 am funeral Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows (Dolores) Church, City of San Fernando, Pampanga (tentative: cellphone # 09166943132).

---

# Ex-Mayor Epifanio Monzon Victa

**1920 - 2006**
**of Kawit, Cavite**

*Peacefully joined his Creator on August 9, 2006*
*at the age of 86.*

His bereaved children **Larry** and **Emy, Elsa, Jack & Elo, Lolita** and **Thuy** and **Lydia**, grandchildren **Susie** and **Edson, Jay, Joy** and **Charles** and great grandson **Little Charles**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 117 Marulas, Kawit, Cavite.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 19, 2006 at Paradise Memorial Park, Tabon, Kawit, Cavite after the 3:00 p.m. Memorial Mass at Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Kawit, Cavite.

---

# LEONOR ALDAY GALANG

Past Regent of Daughters of Mary Immaculate, Tondo, Manila

*Peacefully joined her Lord on August 12, 2006 at 7:40 P.M.*
*at the age of 85 (born July 01, 1921)*

Her loving husband **Abraham J. Galang**; children **Caridad, †Consuelo, Carolina, Consolacion & Constantino**; son-in-law **Ruben Fruto**; daughter-in-law **Ditas Ana Sta. Barbara**; grandchildren **Ryan, Cristina, Raoul, Carmina, Paolo, Dana & Dyan** faithfully request relatives and friends to **PRAY** for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Dulce Memorial Chapels,
2926 Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila.

Funeral Mass at Immaculada Conception Church – Tayuman, Tondo
August 17, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. followed by procession
to pass by her home to Manila North Cemetery.,

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## DEATH NOTICES

**JAIME M. MAMUYAC**

July 3, 1953 – Aug. 12, 2006

His remains lie in state at St. Claire, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat Parañaque.

Interment will be announced later.

**ERLINDA Q. AGUSTIN**

Date of Birth : February 28, 1938

Interment : August 17, 2006

Body lies at Brgy. Pitombayog Mayantoc, Tarlac.

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:**

❶ Copy of Death Certificate

❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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---

# MILAGROS C. ARIOLA

Peacefully joined our Lord
on August 12, 2006 at the age of 70.

She is survived by her husband DING; children **Sue** and **Jun, Boboy** and **Susan, Sonia, Doy** and **Jojo**; with grandchildren **Sabrina, Sebastian** and **Sofia.**

Her remains lie in state at Bonifacio Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 19, 11:00 a.m. at Memory Garden Phase 2, Manila Memorial Park after the 9 a.m. Mass.

---

*Our Dearly Beloved Mother*

# Resurreccion L. Soriaga

*Peacefully joined our Lord*
*on Aug. 12, 2006 at the age of 57.*

Her husband, **Lando**; children **Weng & Gussy, Jon & Abby, Ney & Charm** and **Ochey & Bart**, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at the UP Chapel in Diliman, Quezon City.

Cremation will take place on Saturday, August 19, 2006 at La Funeraria Paz Crematory.

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# FLORANTE NAZARENO MOJICA

*Peacefully joined His Creator on August 12, 2006*
*at the age of 79.*

His remains lie in state at his residence
in Gov. Ferrer Ave., Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Interment will be on Friday, August 18, 2006 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

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# MASS OFFERING

THE PARTNERS, OFFICERS AND STAFF OF

**POBLADOR, AZADA & BUCOY**

REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE PASSING AWAY
OF ONE OF ITS FOUNDING PARTNERS

# ATTY. CIPRIANO C. AZADA

ON AUGUST 9, 2006

MASSES WILL BE OFFERED
ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2006 AT

**ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH CHURCH**
ARNAIZ AVE.,
CORNER AMORSOLO ST., MAKATI CITY
AT 7:30 A.M.

AND

**ST. ANDREWS CHURCH**
REPOSO CORNER KALAYAAN STREETS
BEL-AIR, MAKATI CITY
AT 6:30 A.M.

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# BEN SIN ONG

## (a.k.a. **Ong Sin Ben**)

*Peacefully joined his Creator on August 11, 2006 at the age of 72.*

His loving wife: **Ethel Y. Ong**

**Children and Children-in-law:**

Dr. Marilyn Ong Batenga & Dominador Batenga
Elizabeth Y. Ong, C.P.A.
Engr. Alan Y. Ong
Shirley Y. Ong
Benson Y. Ong & Catherine Yap Ong
Nigel Y. Ong & Janine Badana Ong
Terry Y. Ong
Engr. Katherine Ong Hayrana & Paul Hayrana
Edward Y. Ong & Erlinda Puntual
Ben Y. Ong III & Ann Liezl Sacris Ong
Janith Ann Y. Ong, R.N.
Dr. Oliver Y. Ong & Ann Teresita Salabao Ong

**Grandchildren:**

Ariane Gayle A. Ong
Alyssa Cates A. Ong
Ariel Louise A. Ong
Kimberly Fernandez
Steven Coloscos
Jonathan Lyndon Y. Ong
Patricia Kate Y. Ong
Diana Nicole Y. Ong
Carl Brandon Y. Ong
Janelle Kaye B. Ong
James Kristian B. Ong
Lester M. Ong
Marlon M. Ong
Kobe Mathew Ong Hayrana
Jan Cyrell Puntual
Stephanie Blanche Puntual
Adrian Alonzo S. Ong
Alexi Anne S. Ong
Allison Anne S. Ong
Timothy Clyde S. Ong
Luke Terence S. Ong

Together with the surviving sisters, sisters-in-law, and nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at Cebu Rolling Hills Memorial Chapel, along A.S. Fortuna St., Banilad, Mandaue City. Vigil Mass is celebrated every night at 8:00 P.M. and Funeral Mass will be on Monday, 7:00 A.M., August 21, 2006. Interment will follow.

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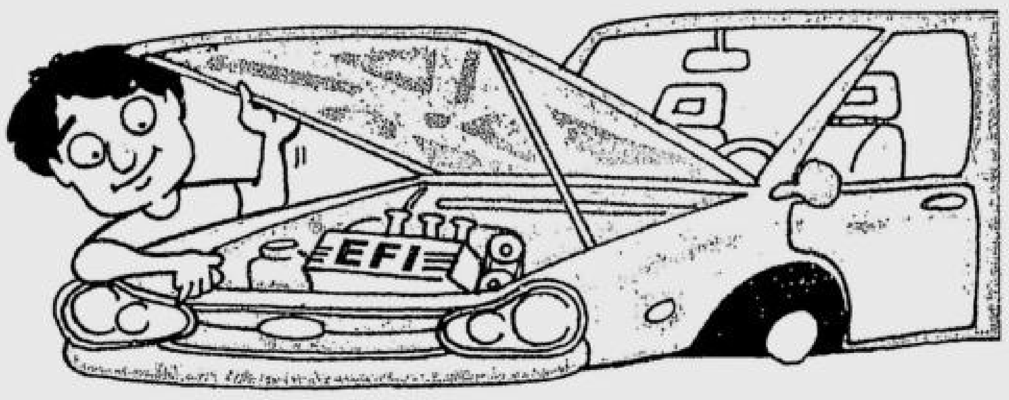
> **"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."** John 3:16

MOTORING
Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

# What to look for in your car before loading up ethanol

By Tessa R. Salazar

*(Last of two parts)*



TO BE OR NOT TO BE, THAT is the question. To be or not to be filling up with ethanol-blended fuel, that is. Should motorists line up right now for pumps that indicate E10 or 10 percent ethanol blended fuel, or should they think twice and take a second look at their car first?

Maybe they should stop, look and listen to what experts have to say first. Mario Marasigan, director of the energy utilization and management bureau of the Department of Energy, gives a couple of advice:

- Make sure engines are fuel-injected (or EFI). E10 is recommended only for such types of fuel systems. Marasigan explains that EFI vehicles have few or no rubber components in their fuel systems. For older cars with carbureted systems, Marasigan advises these vehicles should be fitted with upgrade kits to replace plastic fuel filters. Ethanol has a possible corrosive effect on the rubber and plastic components in the car's fuel system. Rubber or plastic components exposed to ethanol after a "long period of time" may expand, soften, puncture and develop a leak. This would result in the fuel system itself becoming a fire hazard.

EFI systems, Marasigan explains, use tin, copper or sheet metal in their fuel lines, which would be safe for an E10 blend.

- Fuel systems should be clean before loading E10.

## Purity standard

Glenn Yu, president of Seaoil Philippines, says that in the last 25 years emerging technologies have been developed to remove water in ethanol and increase the purity of alcohol to the required specifications issued by the Department of Energy. The DOE has set the purity standard for ethanol at 99.3 percent, thus significantly reducing the corrosive factor of water.

Yu, a chemical engineer graduate of the University of Columbia in Canada, explains that the dehydration process of ethanol now involves the use of a molecular sieve that absorbs water. A sieve, he says, is like a filter that removes water from the alcohol.

He also belies claims that ethanol yields just two-thirds the energy of gasoline, citing the use of ethanol for racing.

Yu cites the Worldwide Fuel Charter in 2002 as a proof that there have been sufficient tests for ethanol. "As early as 1985, there have already been studies done by several reputable agencies, and all the manufacturers are signatories of those tests, Yu says.

Asked why Seaoil's ethanol blended fuel is just 50 centavos less than regular unleaded gasoline, Yu explains that the price benchmark has to start somewhere.

"You cannot start where Brazil is already. Brazil is 30 years forward. To give you an idea of what is possible, in 30 years, Brazil production cost is down to just P12 per liter.

## Lack of supply

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi), for its part, plans to conduct an information drive on ethanol. Though the Campi statement cites its support on the government's biofuel program, its members expressed some of their fears.

Mel Dizon, Campi vice president, says that since not all vehicles can readily use ethanol and that "there's really not enough local capacity for ethanol, (we should not) make the E10 blend mandatory on all pumps."

Campi president Elizabeth Lee adds that apprehensions are on the rise about the lack of supply of ethanol, particularly in what's happening in Thailand.

Thailand is now using 300,000 liters per day of ethanol, and the demand has become larger than the supply.

"That (situation) is actually a testament to the performance of the fuel. Thailand is 3 ½ hours away from the Philippines by air, and the cars that we drive here are made in Thailand," Yu says.

According to Marasigan, the country's available land for sugarcane plantation alone (a primary raw source for ethanol) is more than 300,000 hectares. Still, that much land may not be enough for a society slowly awakening to the sweet promises of ethanol.

Senate Bill 2226 is allowing for a gradual phasing in of ethanol to account for the domestic production of the country. At the same time, the government is all set to import ethanol.

# UMC promotes vehicle reliability

By Charles E. Buban

A RELIABLE VEHICLE IS ONE THAT KEEPS running well for years without requiring unscheduled repairs. For Universal Motor Corp., assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles, Filipino car buyers should value this attribute above all else.

In launching its "Think Long Haul" program recently, UMC believes a vehicle's reliability has the greatest impact when it comes to customer satisfaction and repurchase intent saying a vehicle possessing this quality is always good news for car buyers shopping for used vehicles and for owners planning to trade in their cars and trucks, since the vehicle retains more of its value.

"A vehicle's reliability is also important for us assemblers and distributors because how owners feel about their vehicles three to five to even 10 years on can have a big impact on their decision to buy another vehicle of that brand or look elsewhere," says Elizabeth Lee, UMC senior vice president for marketing.

## Mindset

"Our campaign gives encouragement to

UMC/B-11

THE FRONTIER has been subjected to test like how it will endure knee-deep water.

# Tarmac 101

**MY DRIFT**

*Andre Palma*

IF ONE WANTS TO PRACtice A trade and be good at it, there are skills that one must strive to be proficient at. Take carpenters for example. From the weekend do-it-yourself types to master craftsmen, the basic skill set needed to turn wood into cabinets, furniture and even complete houses is the same. They all work with the same fundamental tools and raw materials to get to their end results. The variance in the quality of what they produce is very often only found in their difference in level of skill.

These same parameters for proficiency hold true for those of us in the motoring beat. Most basic is that there must be a particular level of skill in the medium that we work in, whether it is print, radio or television. Then there is the specialization that our field requires: The knowledge and know-how needed to properly review cars. As it is, in the obvious nature of cars to be driven, a certain level of skill in their operation probably would not hurt one's ability to function as a full-fledged motoring hack.

## Driving techniques

These ideas came into my mind as I was shepherding a pack of first-time Media Challenge drivers last Saturday at the Carmona Race Circuit. After an entire morning of exercises that emphasized car control, acceleration and braking it was fulfilling to see these greenhorns finally able to take to the track with a little more confidence and skill than before. Those who came with an open mind and the craving for more knowledge really shone in those mid-day, solo laps of the track. Some of the rookies I tutored might actually give the series veterans a few surprises during race day itself, as a couple actually surprised me in their raw ability.

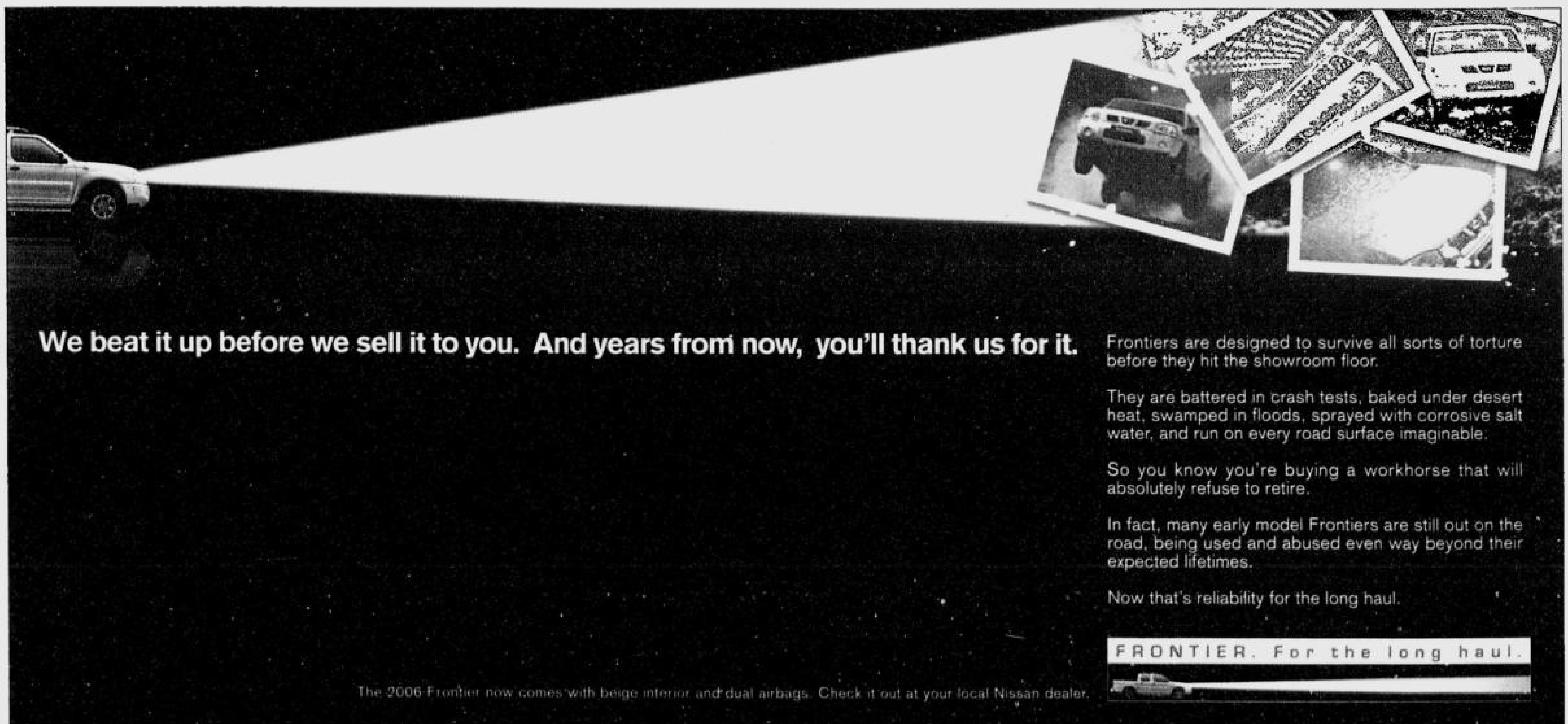
Under the palatable guise of a race series and motor sport experience, what the Honda Media Challenge really gives participants is a view into the basics of proper driving techniques. On or off the track, there are just fundamentals that cannot be compromised, central concepts that do not change. The mere basics of how you sit while at the controls of a car and the manner with which you operate the vehicle's basic control, the steering wheel, tells so very much on the way your driving experience will change. These are some of the most elementary techniques taught at the Media Challenge.

## Advice to rookies

My advice to the rookies in this series is this: Keep practicing what you've been taught, let the basics become habit and be patient. On the first race weekend, though your times will be off the mark from the really fast veterans, do not despair. These more experienced colleagues of yours have been at it for quite a while, some even dating back to the first-ever Media Challenge. What they have over you is seat-time, hours and hours of honing their skills in and out of competition.

Take your cue from people who have a wealth of experience. Ask questions from them, they are not a selfish bunch. Many of the veterans realize that they too at some point were rookies, and will gladly help out the inquisitive first timer. Think about their advice, compare it to the fundamentals that you've learned and if their tips are sound, put them into practice. Do not be afraid to make mistakes on the track, as this is as controlled an environment as can be—the best place to find the fine line between concept and practice.

Check your ambition at the gate. Your time to be competitive will come, just as mine did. In the end though, take what you've learned and give it back to your readers, listeners or audience. The more you know about driving, the better the quality of information that can be given those who depend on you for information and reviews. Even if you do not take a podium place at the Media Challenge, making you a better driver ensures one thing: That the Philippine motoring public wins.



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3 YEAR WARRANTY

# About automakers in US Midwest

**ON THE ROAD**

*Aida Sevilla-Mendoza*

CHICAGO—THE BIG NEWS HERE—ASIDE from the airline terrorism threat, the spectacular King Tutankhamun exhibit at the Fields Museum and the September 9 renaming of the venerable Marshall Field's department store as Macy's—is that Ford Motor Co. will build new vehicles including the Lincoln MKS in its Chicago assembly plant.

Ford's plant here, which employs about 2,500 people and can produce 300,000 vehicles annually on two shifts with overtime, renewed production last Monday after being idle for more than a month because of slow sales.

## AWD Lincoln

The Lincoln MKS, an all-wheel-drive sedan with a 4.4-liter Volvo V-8 engine, will be built on a Volvo platform. It was shown at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit last January, will be launched in 2008 and may replace the Town Car as Lincoln's flagship sedan. Its platform is the same as that of the Ford 500, Mercury Montego sedans and the Freestyle SUV, all three of which are built only in Chicago.

This indicates that Ford's Chicago plant may be spared from the plan to close 14 North American plants and cut 30,000 jobs by 2012. Ford's loss of nearly $1.5 billion in the first half of the year (compared to its $2.1-billion profit in the first half of 2005) is largely traced to the decline in sales of pickup trucks and SUVs on which Ford depends for most of its revenue. In July, Toyota outsold Ford in the US market for the first time.

## Sales hit harder

In a meeting with the press, Mark Fields, president of Ford's US opertions, admitted that high gasoline prices have hit sales harder than the company expected and that they underestimated how swiftly consumers would defect to more fuel-efficient cars.

Chrysler, like Ford and General Motors, relies on light trucks for most of its revenue. About 75 percent of Chrysler's sales year to date are light trucks, including pickups, SUVs, crossovers and minivans, according to Autodata. GM's sales were 60 percent light trucks and Ford's were 62 percent.

## Upsurge

In contrast, light trucks account for only 42 percent of sales at Toyota and Honda, both of which are profiting from the upsurge in car sales. An analyst noted that Toyota and Honda worked to position their brands as fuel-efficient even when it wasn't trendy to do so, while Detroit's Big 3 continued to rely heavily on SUVs and pickups for profit.

Perhaps it's because fuel-efficient cars are less profitable for automakers. Fields said that a 2 percentage-point drop in sales could cost the industry $8 billion in lost revenue annually.

## GM'S optimism

Just last week, GM president Rick Wagoner optimistically declared that truck sales are unlikely to nose-dive even if the price of gas soars to $4 a gallon. But Autobytel, an online site, reported that online purchase requests for pickups fell dramatically in the second semester while purchase requests for the Toyota Camry, Toyota Yaris and Honda Civic jumped.

It reflects consumers' growing interest in fuel economy, Autobytel said. The drop in pickup sales mirrors last year's falloff in SUV sales as the price of gas rose steadily.

## Unfazed

Meanwhile, Mercedes-Benz, like its Chrysler partner, appears to be unfazed by the continuing rise in oil prices.

The German premium car manufacturer advertised in the Chicago Tribune the 2007 seven-passenger GL 450, "the first full-sized European luxury SUV" with unit-body construction, 4MATIC permanent 4-wheel-drive, a 335-hp V-8 engine mated to a 7-speed automatic transmission and 7,500-lb towing capacity. Its starting price: $55,675.

# UMC promotes. . .

From page B10

Filipinos to overcome any difficulties and challenges. A sort of rallying cry, 'Think Long Haul' is UMC's message to everyone that, we as a country can and will overcome any challenge that comes our way if we base our decisions and actions on the positive outcome we want in the future," she explains.

Lee is proud to announce that the Frontier is among the leading pickups in the market today that have high resale value.

## Tested to absolute limits

For reliability and durability, Lee says their Nissan pickups were tested to absolute limits including undergoing four-wheel-drive validity test, frame and suspension trials, and even saltwater corrosion test.

"Nissan takes pride of the Frontier's safety, comfort and performance to perfection. In fact among the tests it has been subjected were stream crossing, driving on 25 degree slopes, running on every road surface imaginable and cornering acceleration," Lee enumerates.

And what better way to verify the vehicle's toughness than for Nissan to participate in the Dakar Rally, arguably the most dangerous legally sanctioned annual sport event that takes its participants from Lisboa in Portugal to Dakar, Senegal in West Africa and to some of the roughest terrain on the planet.

## Crushable zones

Aside from performance-related tests, Nissan also validates the vehicle's impact-absorbing crushable zone, called Zone Body Concept.

The Zone Body Concept is Nissan's way of combining the crumple or crash zone and the safety zone. While the crash zone (the area between the bumper and the steering) is designed to collapse progressively and absorb the impact energy in case of a frontal collision, the safety zone safeguards the vehicle occupants through a series of rigid structures that provide a high level of protection, thus reducing the risk of serious injury to passengers.

"These safety features are standard in all Nissan Frontier 4x2 and 4x4 models with the 2006 Frontier now equipped with dual airbags for added safety," Lee reminds.

# On emission testing

**FULL TANK**

*Al Mendoza*

A FRIEND OF MINE CAME TO ME one day and said, "I got my emission testing certificate without bringing my car to the emission testing center."

I told him I was not surprised.

"You are not the first to tell me that," I told him.

The law says you can't register your vehicle at the Land Transportation Office (LTO) without your vehicle not passing an emission test from an LTO-recognized emission testing center (ETC). The law is self-explanatory: The ETC is one of our tools to help maintain a clean air, a pollution-free atmosphere.

However, many are able to register their vehicles without properly securing their ETCs. This can only be the result of the connivance among testing center owners, fixers and LTO insiders.

But I guess the days of circumventing the Philippine Clean Air Act or "Emission Law" are numbered.

Recently, I read in the papers that a number of ECTs have been closed down for noncompliance with the law. Some of them were found to be fake, meaning not LTO-recognized. No less than Transportation Undersecretary Ricardo E. Alfonso has been cited in the papers as having personally taken an active stance in curbing the menace.

The one thing I like in the renewed move to cleanse the industry of illegal ETCs is Alfonso's enforcement, hand-in-hand with LTO chief Anneli Lontoc, of the strict compliance to Department Order 2005-34 and 2005-37 by ETCs and ETC-Information Technology Facility (ITF) providers. The ITF aspect will interconnect all duly accredited ETCs and their authorized ETC-IT providers, thus eliminating the issuance of the same certificate to more than one vehicle owner—a main source of brazen robbery in broad daylight!

My wish is for both Alfonso and Lontoc to go for it unrelentingly so that illicit organizations, corruption and ineptness within the Department of Transportation and Communications and LTO are totally eradicated for the benefit and protection of the public.

* * *

FAST FACTS. Subaru, whose $4-million investment has helped perked up the country's economy this year, has broken its 10-year sales record in 2002 in South Asia, selling 1,018 cars. Largely credited for this Subaru upsurge is Glenn Tan, who helped engineer Subaru's consistent yearly sales increases in 2003 (1,212 units sold), 2004 (1,501) and 2005 (1,608)... A dear friend of mine is so deeply enamored with the Volvo S60 that only weeks after he had bought one, he bought another one. "For my wife," he said... Hat's off to Honda, which rolled out not just one but two new models recently—the new Accord and the all-new SUV named Pilot. This, despite serene car sales in July... Now, of course, Toyota isn't far behind. It will shortly unravel its all-new Camry, Toyota's all-time best-seller in America... Isuzu's environment-friendly stance came to the fore anew recently when Isuzu president Yoshifumi Komura and VP Art Balmadrid planted seedlings to reforest a 5-hectare mangrove in Hundred Islands through Nani Braganza, the super-energetic mayor of Alaminos City in Pangasinan. Because of the sheer drama that attended the event—dark, thundering skies, typhoon, driving rains and all—it deserves more discourse here later. *Abangan!*

* * *

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* * *

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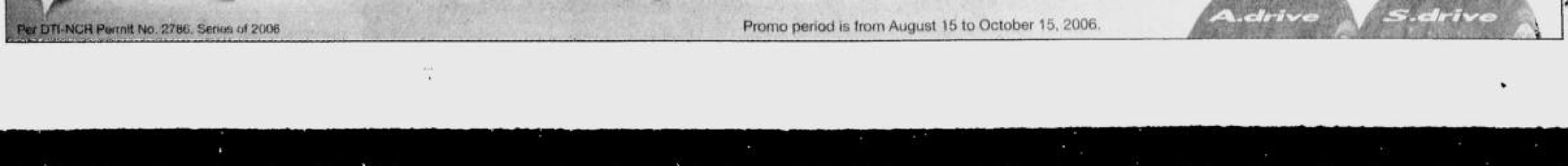

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# Ecozone locators posted 11% export growth in H1

## Private SEZs accounted for 75% of total receipts

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC ZONES POSTed an 11-percent increase in export earnings in the first half of the year to $16.7 billion from $15.06 billion in the same period last year, a Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) report showed.

The Peza said the four public ecozones yielded a total of $3.8 billion in export receipts from January to June, up by 14.7 percent from $3.3 billion a year-ago.

Among the four public ecozones, Baguio City Economic Zone exported $1.7 billion worth of goods; Cavite Economic Zone, $11. billion; Mactan Economic Zone, $806.6 million and Bataan Economic Zone, $197.5 million.

The Baguio ecozone posted a 32-percent increase in export shipments, while the three others recorded increases of between 0.8 percent and 15 percent.

The 42 private special economic zones (SEZ) shipped out a total of $12.5 billion worth of products, an increase of 8 percent from $11.6 billion in the first half of 2005.

The top five special economic zone exporters were Gateway Business Park with $2.9 billion; Laguna Technopark Inc., $2.7 billion; Amkor Technology SEZ, $995.6 million; Carmelray Industrial Park I, $851.3 million and Leyte Industrial Development Estate, $672.5 million.

Among top five performers, Leyte Industrial performed the best with a 68.8-percent growth, while Laguna Technopark suffered a 1.7-percent decrease in export receipts.

Export receipts registered by information technology parks and buildings—numbering at least 28—grew the largest with the first semester figure at $397.8 million, or 148 percent from $160.3 million last year.

The top five IT buildings and parks from January to June were Eastwood City Cyber Park with $89.6 million; RCBC Plaza, $76.6 million; PBCom Tower, $50.9 million; Northgate Cyber Zone, $22.2 million, and Export Bank Plaza, $15.4 million.

Last month, Peza reported that it had approved as of the middle of July about 250 projects worth a total of P27.7 billion. This was 18 percent higher than the year-ago level.

Of the total amount, locator investments accounted for P22.6 billion while ecozone developers represented P5.1 billion.

In the same period, IT investments approved for Peza registration amounted to P4.9 billion or 36.5 percent higher than the level committed in the same period last year.

Given the go-ahead were 60 IT projects that account for a projected average direct employment creation of 23,241, which is 62.7 percent higher than the number in the comparative period in 2005.

# DOE in talks with Indonesian gov't for supply of asphalt

**By Abigail L. Ho**

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS "seriously taking up" with its Indonesian counterpart the possibility of importing Mindanao's asphalt requirements from Indonesia.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said he had discussed the matter with Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro, but further talks would be conducted by Energy Undersecretary Guillermo Balce.

Lotilla said two types of Indonesian asphalt were being eyed for the deal—the by-product of the oil refining process and the naturally occurring asphalt.

For the refining process by-product, he said Indonesian oil company Pertamina could possibly strike a deal with Petron Corp., which was 40-percent owned by the government.

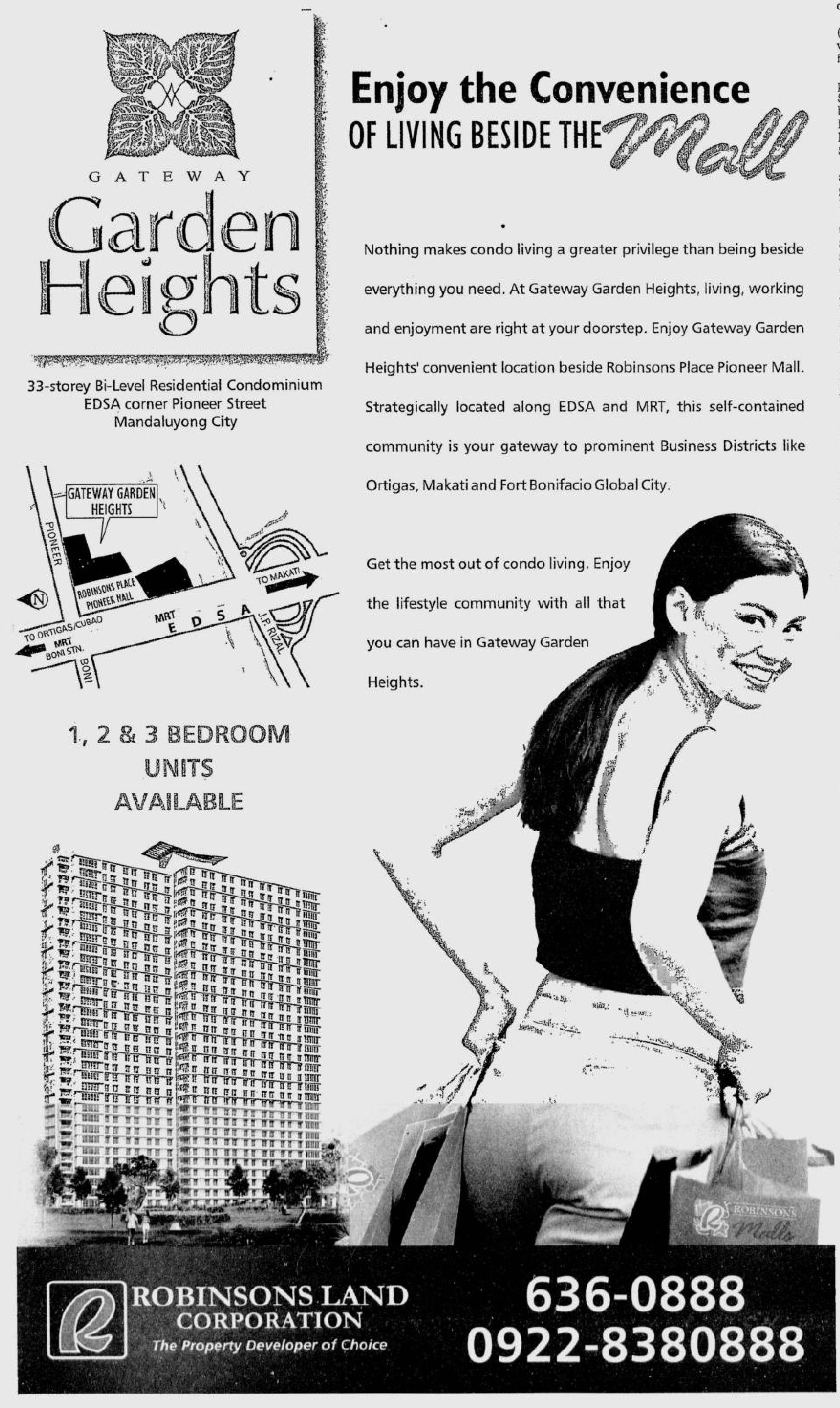
"We're pursuing discussions on both (types of asphalt). This will reduce freight costs as Indonesia is already very near Mindanao. Pertamina owns the refineries. If Petron will buy from Pertamina, the deal can start from there," he said.

He said in an earlier interview that with the ongoing peace process in Mindanao, asphalt demand there should spike in the future as more roads are constructed in the islands.

But since the government itself would not be able to exploit the asphalt resources due to the huge investment requirement, Petron would likely be tapped for it.

"Petron or any other interested party can always enter into that service as we need somebody to invest in order to exploit (those resources). This is something that we'll talk with Petron about. It's essential that we work on this soon," he had earlier said.

He said the Philippine government would have to conduct a series of negotiations with the Indonesian government, particularly as power over natural resources were now being transferred from the central to the provincial governments.



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*Part 1*

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*E-mail us about your own clique at Ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph*

# No more excuses

**By Ruth L. Navarra**

JUST WHEN EVERYONE thought the past couple or more decades had produced the most indifferent generation, Rock Ed was born to prove everyone wrong.

Rock Ed started last year when Ateneo teacher Gang Badoy gathered her close friends (who, according to her, happened to be the best in their respective fields) to form the organization. They were few but they had big dreams. They wanted the youth to be more involved in the socioeconomic problems of the nation.

"We're not as set as other NGOs like Gawad Kalinga in terms of what we do. Rock Ed is a venue for volunteers who want to make a difference through the arts," says Badoy. "It is a movement, a state of mind of Filipinos saying 'I'll find ways to be part of progress by giving my time or donating food.'"

Rock Ed takes on several projects at any given time. Its most popular events are the concerts where local bands such as Up Dharma Down, Radioactive Sago Project, Pupil, Kjwan and many others participate.

Rock Ed challenges all the youth out there to shake off their indifference, because there's no more time for that

POVERTY HISTORY
EXCUSES

**VOLUNTEERS during the MTV lecture with Randy David. Inset: "No more excuses" white band**

LEONARDO COLL

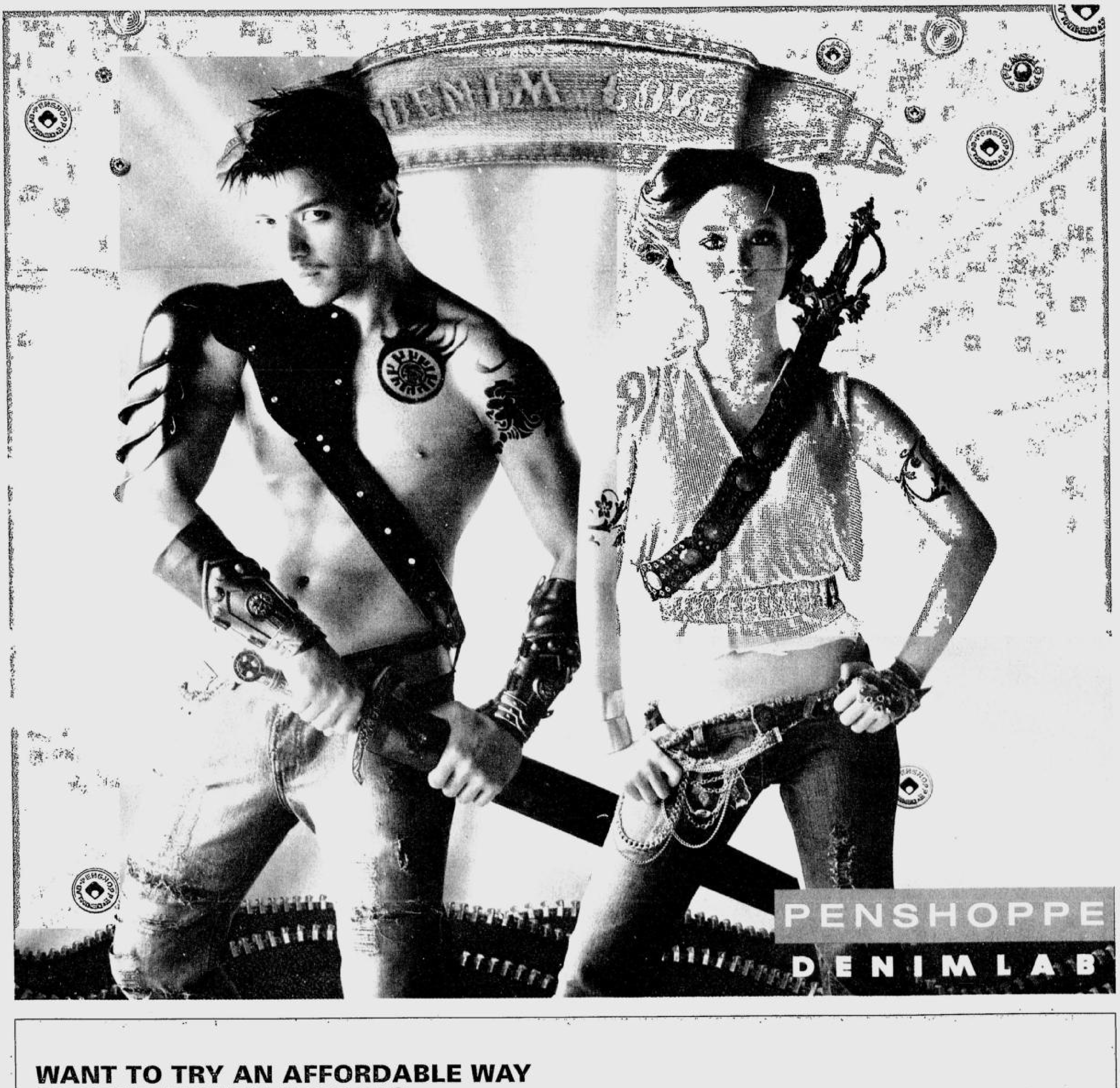
"Concerts help raise awareness," says Badoy. "Every time you write your name on sheets of paper that makes you a volunteer, it's like you're agreeing to what we stand for, and we appreciate that."

The white bands that concertgoers get after signing their names during gigs are not just freebies to make them look cool. They stand for saying "no to poverty." Rock Ed says wearing it is saying, in effect, "No More Excuses, Philippines."

The core volunteers regularly give workshops on alternative education to teachers in different parts of the country. Some of the places they've been to are Cebu, Nueva Viscaya and Benguet.

This forms the movement's secondary objective: to make teachers more hip and effective in communicating with their students. Badoy says it doesn't matter whether it's basket weaving or web designing—the topic can be anything useful, and everybody who wants to share Rock Ed's knowledge is welcome to join.

NO MORE/ C3



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**MICHAEL** Angelo Sese as animé character Ichigo Shinagami

**TIGAS** founder Scott Ryan Aquino as Iori Yagami from King of Fighters

**POPULAR** cosplayer Alexee Cadigal as Cherry from Saber Marionette

**JEREMY** Pascua as Baki from Naruto

# Not just child's play

**Text by Bianca Consunji**
*2bU! Correspondent*
**Photos by Jeff Cua**

Cosplayers—people dressing up like their favorite cartoon, movie or animé characters—are now a force to reckon with

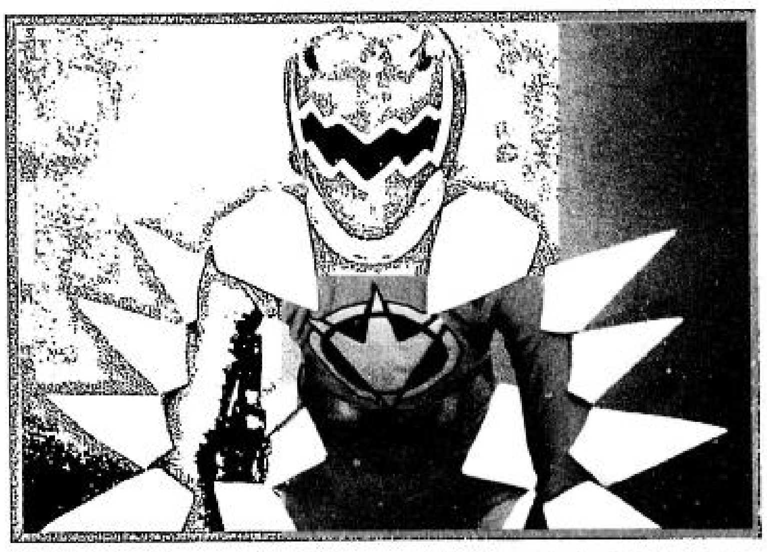
COSPLAY ISN'T childish anymore. It's an art form, and art knows no age," says Mike Abundo, one of the administrators of the popular cosplay forum, PinoyCosplay.com.

Cosplay, which is derived from the words "costume" and "play," refers to the phenomenon of people dressing up in costumes to look like their favorite movie, cartoon or animé characters. Contrary to popular belief, cosplay is not limited to Japanese animé characters, although they admittedly make up the bulk of cosplayers' acquired characters.

"Cosplay groups are not like bands or theater companies," Abundo says. "They're just people who express their love of various characters by wearing the character's costumes and acting them out, based on what they see on TV, games, comics, books, pop culture, history, whatever."

"Most cosplay nowadays is of animé, manga, and Japanese game characters. But of course, any character can be cosplayed—even historical and political figures. Think about it. Every American Civil War re-enactor is a cosplayer."

Hordes of fans gather at cosplay events—called conventions—in order to participate in a slew of events, such as skits, photo shoots and ramp competitions that show off their awe-inspiring costumes. Some individuals also form core groups to present skits at various conventions. Others exist simply to provide support and advice to fellow cosplayers.



**GO POWER** Ranger: Gilbert Sagun as Red Abare from Power Raedo

One such group is Tigas, short for These Individual Guyz Are Spontaneous, one of the groups found on PinoyCosplay.com. Founded by Scott Ryan Aquino early this year, the group has grown from five members to the present community of 36.

"We all met each other online," says Aquino. "Forums are boring when you don't know who you are talking to. So we met up and it just went from there... We help those who are *mahina sa diskarte*. We give advice to the shy ones and help them out when they have problems."

Tigas focuses on crossover cosplay, which sees characters from several unrelated media (such as television, movies or comics) interact with each other.

"Just imagine Spiderman, Superman, Bugs Bunny and Jabba the Hutt in a bar fight," says Abundo. "That's a crossover of Western characters. Apply that to mostly animé characters, and throw in a couple of Western ones into the mix, and you've got your crossover."

Needless to say, the situations that cosplayers come up with in crossover skits can lead to sidesplitting laughter. However, Tigas, for instance, emphasizes a positive attitude to life's challenges in its skits, and this has made it one of the more popular cosplay groups. Other groups also have various slants in their own presentations, making each cosplay group unique.

On average, the members of Tigas spend from P500-3000 on their costumes. Since professionally made costumes are expensive (and unoriginal), cosplayers use any handy materials and good old ingenuity to create their elaborate costumes. Alexee Cadiagal's costume from Saber Marionette, for instance, made use of styrofoam balls wrapped in satin.

Many people have dismissed cosplay and animé in general because of the supposedly "weird" appearance of the cosplayers, and the tendency for many of them to go on and on about animé.

"It's okay," Aquino says. "People talk about other things, too, but we don't mind them. They pick on us because it's different."

An interesting example of this would be the recent pilot episode of "Philippine Idol," when a girl clad in a neon-green dress, boots and wig sang the opening theme from "Voltes V." After making her sing nearly the entire song, judge Ryan Cayabyab requested her to sing something in English. The next day, reactions about "the animé girl" ranged from amused tolerance to approval to outright ridicule.

"She had a nice voice, she should've done something normal," was a typical reaction.

But Abundo looks at the incident in a positive light.

"What do you think of the negative connotations of rock 'n' roll 50 years ago? It's all the same—new forms of expression always face backlash. I mean, even the former President of Taiwan has cosplayed, gray hair and all. We're just waiting for our time. Animé is popular, gaming is popular. It's just natural that cosplay follows."

*E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com*

SITTINGS EDITOR: TATIN YANG
SHOT AT THE ADAM BALLROOM AND POOLSIDE OF THE MANDARIN HOTEL, MAKATI
SPECIAL THANKS TO CHARISSE CHUIDIAN, DONNA LAMPANO AND MERIEJO BERLAS

**KHAREN** Ona all glammed up as Sakura from Sakura Wars

**NEIL** Sta. Ana as Choi Bounge from King of Fighters

**LYRON** Decy Aquino hamming it up as Monkey D' Luffy from One Piece

# Scaling the heights

**By Marla Miniano**
*2bU! Correspondent*

If you love the outdoors and you're willing to push yourself to the limit, then the AMCI Mountaineering Club is for you

THE AMCI MOUNTaineering Club Inc., (formerly the Ayala Mountaineers Club Inc.) was founded in 1983 by seven young men. A non-stock, nonprofit organization, AMCI commits itself to ensuring its members' safety during climbing activities, promoting camaraderie among members and with other communities, and safeguarding the environment.

To date, the club's membership has grown to over 1,000 individuals.

AMCI offers the Basic Mountaineering Course (BMC) for people who want to get an initial feel of mountaineering. It aims to improve its participants' physical fitness, arm them with theoretical and practical knowledge, and prepare them for outdoor expeditions by teaching the basic concepts and ideas of responsible mountaineering.

**GETTING** ready for more adventures

In order to participate in the BMC, aspiring trainees must be at least 18 years of age, must be willing to pay the BMC fee of P3,900 (which does not cover expenses for out-of-town activities and personal equipment), and must submit a medical clearance and accomplish the application and waiver forms.

BMC participants must be ready to allot enough time for trainings and lectures. They meet twice a week: 6:30-10 p.m. on Wednesdays and 6 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays. They also go on training climbs on certain weekends.

The BMC kicks off every May and runs for four months. At the end of those four months, AMCI members can attest to the course's many rewards: fitness level improvement (imagine running 15 kilometers in 2 hours!), considerable climbing experience (training climbs and the final induction climb), getting close to the country's natural beauty, travel opportunities, and increased technical knowledge in terms of land navigation, trail movement, management of gears and equipment, and survival skills.

Aside from offering guided climbs to companies and other interested parties, AMCI also reaches out to other people through its community service programs. The members give donations to the areas they visit during their climbs as a way of saying thank you to the residents. This year, the club launched its Big Brother Big Sister campaign, which seeks to provide school supplies for children in remote places.

**AT THE PEAK** of Mt. Kinabalu, the highest mountain in Southeast Asia

The Kids' Camp—an overnight event that teaches camping basics to children—is something the members also look forward to annually. And with environmental issues a shared concern, the members help protect the beauty of nature by going on tree-planting trips and cleanup climbs, and coordinating with other environmentally oriented organizations.

"What you'll get is a different kind of experience," says AMCI president Lovell Sarreal. "It's a break from the routine and monotony of urban living."

If you love the outdoors, if you're willing to push yourself to the limit, if you want to expand your horizons, and if you're aiming to become a better, stronger person—not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually as well—then AMCI is definitely for you.

*Visit http://amci.org.ph*

# No more excuses

From page C1

In this way, volunteerism becomes the backbone of the organization.

"If you can participate with only one event or project for the next six months, we'll take it," says Badoy.

## Able and willing

So what are the requirements to be a volunteer? As long as you're able, willing and not a politician, you're in. Rock Ed assumes that politicians are already contributing something to the country through their office, so it would rather not use up their time.

"You can be a volunteer in two ways: you can think of your own projects, tell us about it and what you need to make it work, and we'll provide the people and resources. Or you can join an existing project."

Badoy enumerates some of Rock Ed's major projects: Book-Bigayan, Gimik ng Bayan, where we donate some of your old books to *gimik* places like Saguijo, Mag:net, Big Sky Mind. Then we have the vaccination fund for typhoid for the Leyte victims. Just because they're not in the news doesn't mean we have forgotten about them. We also have *libreng* field trip on October for public-school students who can't afford to join field trips."

No project is too small for the movement. It will support even your school's cleanup projects if you ask them to. It's really about knowing that you can do things and make a difference.

Even though Rock Ed has thousands of volunteers all over the country, it can never have enough. There will always be something to do for everyone.

"I personally handle our site so we don't need web designers. But if another NGO needs them, we refer them to our web designer volunteers," Badoy says. "It's not directly for Rock Ed, but it's still for a good cause.

The Rock Ed movement will not stay on forever and will end on July 1, 2015.

"Because there's no urgency if there's no deadline," says Badoy.

Rock Ed challenges all the youth out there to stop giving excuses, because there's no more time for that. Prove to everyone—and yourself—that this is not an indifferent generation.

*Visit www.rockedphilippines.org*

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# The sisterhood of the traveling flip flops

**By Pam Pastor**

This is a story of how the Internet can bring people with a common passion together—and turn kilobytes of messages into real friendships

IT WAS MY SECOND DAY IN Japan and I returned to my hotel to find two pretty Japan-based Filipinas waiting for me in the lobby. "Kreng! Jaki!" I greeted them warmly. We spent the afternoon in Shibuya and Harajuku buying shoes and accessories, and stopping by Oshman's for a Havaianas fix. The funny thing is, it was the first time I met the two Filipinas, and it was the first time they met each other. But we had spent hours of our lives exchanging messages online.

Rewind.

The link to Female Network's Girltalk forum kept appearing on my blog's site meter referrals earlier this year. One day, out of curiosity, I clicked the link and found a group of girls that were as enthusiastic about Havaianas as I was. To me, the thread was a gold mine, a real treasure. I went from having no one to share my addiction for Brazilian flip flops with to being able to talk to the girls about it 24/7.

They call themselves Havies (short for Havaianas Junkies), a term Pia, also a member of the group, coined. The girls on the thread formed a support group of sorts, like AA for flip flop junkies. But instead of working to curb the addiction, they help nurture it. Updates on new styles that are coming out, stock replenishments and sales in the girls' favorite stores are often discussed. But the thread goes beyond just talking about Havaianas.

When Pattybee couldn't find a pair she really wanted, she knew who to turn to.

"I was so desperate to find a pair of top browns to replace an old pair which I had outgrown as a result of my pregnancy. It was funny and touching at the same time how the Havies helped me search high and low for this. My new pair (and an extra one just in case) came all the way from Australia!"

She got her desired pair thanks to Bex, an Australia-based Filipina who is a serious Havaianas collector.

When new models are released and the other Havies are stuck in school or in the office, Rachel and Sheena, who Chel calls "The Resident Havaianas Hunters," rush to the stores to buy pairs for themselves and for the other members of the group.

## Network

And because some models are only available in certain countries, the Havies have formed a network that makes it possible for them to get the pairs they want, even if they are in another corner of the world.

"The Havies have devised a way for us to be able to obtain that certain model we're 'obsessing' about. We buy each other particular models and shipping is no problem," said Pia.

When the Yaya Girl Havaianas came out in Japan, Jaki bought over 10 pairs for the Havies. When Chiso Havaianas came out in Japan and Hong Kong and the girls figured out that these were cheaper in Hong Kong, Smile came to the rescue. Bex is always on the lookout for pairs that are only available in Australia. And when Shiela found out there were pairs still available in Dubai that had been sold out in Manila, she told the girls and started buying for them. She ended up pulling all-nighters, labeling pairs and filling an entire *balikbayan* box with Havaianas for the other girls.

"I've no regrets buying around 70 pairs of Havaianas for them, I know I made the Havies happy," she said.

Bex said, "We share the same passion, we look after one another. I live overseas and the Philippine distributor releases new designs more frequently than Australia's so I rely on good-hearted Havies to purchase for me. Money is never an issue and that's where trust comes in."

**FLIP FLOP friends. The circle of Havaianas**

You don't have to have a lot of pairs to become a Havie. It doesn't matter how many you own. Some have three while others have over a hundred.

Bex added, "It's not a matter of who owns the most, who owns the limited editions, who gets to own the first new releases."

Pia agreed, "You may not even own a single pair, as long as the love for it is there."

The Havies are of different ages and backgrounds. There are students, doctors, entrepreneurs, engineers, moms, IT specialists, and everyone gets along well.

## Scam

Everyone, that is, except the "scavies," another term Pia coined to describe lurkers who check out the thread and use the information to scam people. The scavies pretend to sell pairs that are in demand on Ebay, on Multiply or on other threads even if they don't really have them.

Sometimes they even steal and use photos of pairs that the Havies have posted in their attempt to scam potential buyers. The Havies have confronted a number of scammers and have even managed to close down some of their sites. And some victims of these scammers have become part of the Havies.

**HAVIES' night out. Dinner at National Sports Grill**

While some Havies prefer to stay anonymous, communicating with the others only online, through e-mail or through Yahoo Messenger, others meet up regularly, for coffee, for fun nights out, for lunch, for dinners and for flip flop shopping like what happened last week, when Aura Athletica released the Havaianas Embellished 2006 collection at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall.

Havaianas may play a big role in the thread, but the girls talk about other things as well. Lindsay said, "We also talk about life, work, beauty tips and the other favorite topic—food!"

The moms on the thread give one another tips about taking care of their kids, the students talk about their schools, the girls talk about their relationships, their families, their lives.

Although some of them find it hard to believe they've built friendships over flip flops, the girls are all grateful. Nikki is especially thankful for "having met so many people from all walks of life and from different countries."

"I love the camaraderie! It's great that some great friendships have been formed in this place. I can't see myself not being part of this lovable bunch," said Pattybee.

Edel added, "The havies are good, loyal friends. *Sobrang ganda ng* bonding *ng mga* Havies *kahit na* most of us don't really meet each other in person."

"It's not just a thread anymore, it's a sisterhood," Chel said.

*E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph*

## Havaianaticos, speak up

OTHER HAVAIANAS FANS TELL YOU ABOUT their own collections, their favorite pair and why they love Brazilian flip flops

"They've crossed over and are now deemed "decent" attire. Even security guards recognize them now and don't stop you when you're wearing Havaianas." **—Pauline Suaco-Juan, Editor in chief, Preview**

"I always take my Havaianas with me everywhere. I use it all the time. Especially when I know I have to walk for a long time." **—Rose Montenegro, marketing manager**

"Right now, my favorite is the Italy World Cup Havaianas." **—JM Rodriguez, TV host and stage actor**

"When you first try them on, your feet feel like they've known them forever. Can never let them go. It's like love at first try." **—Carmen Jimenez-Ong, Pilates-addict-turned-studio-owner; founding partner, B+B Studio**

"I like dressing them up with my signature detachable embellishments (and a matching bag, too, haha). I always have a pair in my car—when your stilettos are killing you, Havaianas comes to your rescue!" **— Kate Torralba, fashion designer**

### Now it's your turn

Show us why you love your Havaianas and win goodies from Havaianas Philippines!

It doesn't matter if you have one, 10 or a hundred pairs. Send us a creative photo of you with your pair—or your entire collection—and you just might win goodies from Havaianas Philippines.

Three grand prize winners will win a specially made Swarovski-studded pair (if female) or a pair with limited-edition pins (if male), a Havaianas keychain and a Havaianas slipper bag. Five runners-up will win Havaianas shirts.

E-mail your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to include your name, age, school/office, contact information and Havaianas size. Deadline for entries is Aug. 30.

havaianas
havaianas

# Hip-shooting Lomo maniacs

**By Tammy David**
*2bU! Correspondent*

Its philosophy is 'Don't think, just shoot!' Say hello to LomoManila

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUBS MAY be a dime a dozen, but this circle of shutterbugs may be different from the rest.

In this group, you rarely hear talks about the new Macbooks or the fastest memory cards in the market. Instead, you hear about "film" and "cross processing" and where to buy boxes of expired films. It still has bragging sessions found in other clubs, but instead of a member bragging about buying the latest camera that costs more than a car, members exchange photos of lush colors and abstract subjects.

No, this group is unlike the hardcore groups of purists who live and thrive on technique. In fact, its philosophy—"Don't think, just shoot!"—is the antithesis of the old fashion clubs.

Say hello to LomoManila, the local lomography group.

Lomography or Lomo stands for Leningradskoye Optiko Mechanicheskoye Obyedinenie (Leningrad Optical and Mechanical Enterprise), a company based in St. Petersburg, Russia, that produces medical equipment, observation apparatuses and of course, cameras.

The granddaddy of Lomo cameras is the sturdy pocket-sized Lomo Kompakt Automat 35mm camera (LCA) which was originally designed as a spy camera for the army. The vintage-looking LCAs sold in the market are refurbished and good as new; they take the trademark oversaturated photos. Other cameras from Lomo include the Holga Medium Format, Colorsplash 35mm and Horizon Kompakt panoramic, to name a few.

## Lomo VIPs

The popularity of lomography gave birth to a new photographic movement across the globe. To date, lomographers have included such names as Yassir Arafat, Helmut Lang, Moby and Robert Redford. Lomo aficionados take colorful and off-the-wall photographs and share them in cyberspace.

Lomomanila was born in 2002 when At Maculangan, a longtime Lomographer based in Italy, contacted the Lomographic Society in Vienna and asked if he could organize a lomographic exhibition in the Philippines. They not only agreed to the exhibition but also gave him the rights to distribute the Lomo cameras locally.

**"CHAIR," by Joanna Tripon**

At, who is known as the godfather of Philippine Lomography, later approached Katya Guerrero who had just opened the Photography Art Center in Makati, where the show was eventually held. After his successful one-man Lomo exhibition of 450 5R lomographs, At—and Guerrero—became the Lomo ambassadors to the Philippines.

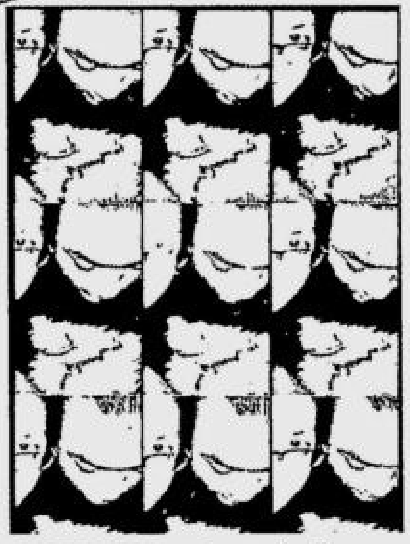
And despite not having a shop, At was able to sell more than a hundred lomos until 2004. Today, lomos can be bought online, as well as from Montage in Greenbelt and members of Lomomanila.

Lomography gained a cult following fast just through word of mouth. Eventually a lomographer, Ian Roxas, suggested opening a Yahoo group for Lomomanila (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lomomanila). The e-group popularized Lomography further. Apart from At, Katya and Ian, Holga Queen Sharon Atillo compose the founding members of Lomomanila.

## Join Lomomanila

To date, Lomomanila has 281 members, a handful of whom are going to be part of the upcoming exhibit on Sept. 9 titled "Lomolove." Though they do not meet regularly for road trips or bragging sessions, they occasionally hold meetings to organize exhibits, talk about their latest lomo adventure and exchange rolls of film.

**"WINDSOR" by Sarah Encabo**



**"VOCALIZER at Drummist," by Marge Francia**

For those who want something different with photography and are unafraid to experiment or break the "rules," try lomography.

"It's about capturing the moments, places, people around you, and not thinking of exposure, shutter speed, composition, rule of thirds, etc.," said Dek Tanawin, who has been with Lomomanila for two years and sells lomos.

Fellow lomographer Joanna Tripon agrees. "I guess it teaches you how to trust your artsy-fartsy instincts, not being caught up with all the technical aspects of shooting (which isn't bad, but just not for when you're lomo-ing), being open to unexpected results."

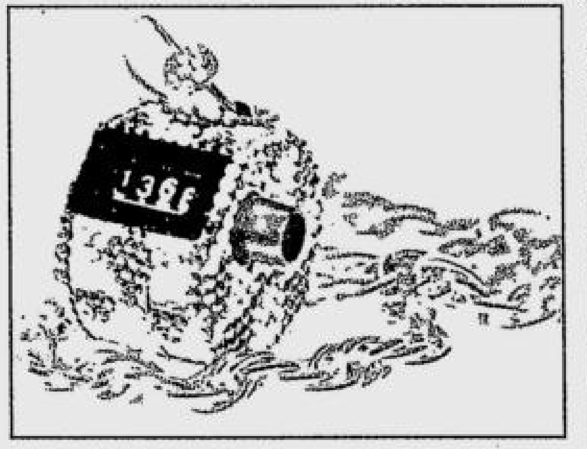
To join Lomomanila, it is important to have a lomo camera, but for Dek, "Anyone is free to join the yahoogroup as long as you take note of the rules of the list—even if you don't have a camera, but believe in the philosophy or want to know more about it. Anybody can join just by sending an e-mail to lomomanila-subscribe@yahoogroups.com."

*Lomo links:*

Lomographic Society International: www.lomography.com

Where to buy Lomos: www.lomostuff.blogspot.com

Lomomanila on Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/groups/lomomanila



THE 2BU! CLICK AWARDS

## What's clicking? You tell us

IF YOU'RE 13-25, OR, FINE, 30 YEARS OLD, WE want to know who and what you think is clicking and why it clicks. Nominate your most "clickable" girl, boy, band, gadget and organization for the 2bU! Click Awards. And if your nominee wins, you will be eligible to win any of these exciting prizes!

If your Most Clickable Girl nominee wins, you get a chance to win 12 pairs of Havaianas.

If your Most Clickable Boy nominee wins, you get a chance to win four pairs of Viktor Jeans.

If your Most Clickable Band wins, you get a chance to win an iPod Video.

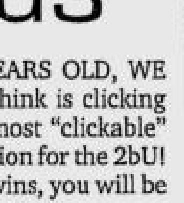
If your Most Clickable Gadget wins, you get a chance to win a Sony PSP.

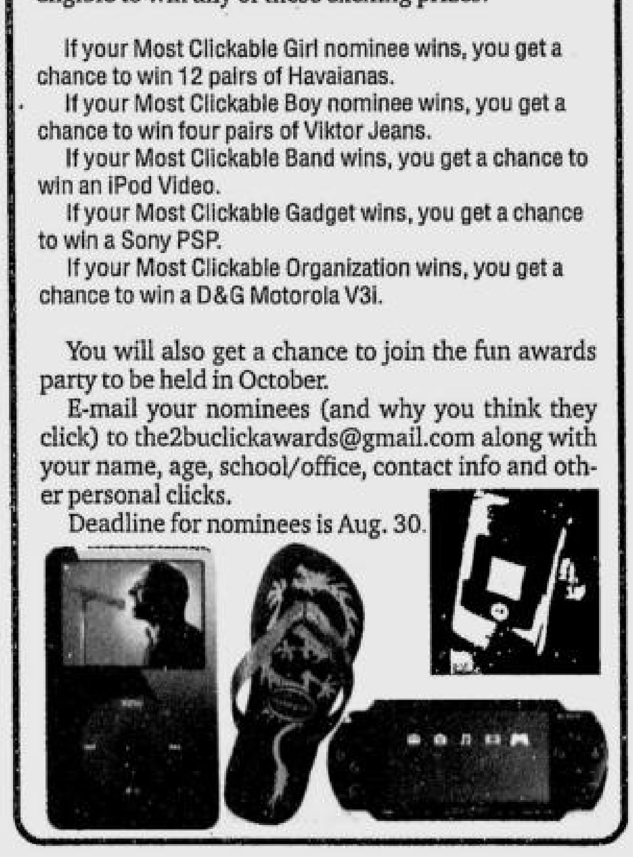
If your Most Clickable Organization wins, you get a chance to win a D&G Motorola V3i.

You will also get a chance to join the fun awards party to be held in October.

E-mail your nominees (and why you think they click) to the2buclickawards@gmail.com along with your name, age, school/office, contact info and other personal clicks.

Deadline for nominees is Aug. 30.





DRESS by Yvonne Quisumbing, accessories by Oleic

SWIRLY '70s-inspired dress by Irene Pineda from Irene's Closet, headpiece by Oleic

CLOTHES from Patty Eustaquio's Plank line and necklaces from CRU

MODEL: CAMILLE GO
AND CIELO FRONTRERAS
PHOTOS: SARAH TAN
MAKE UP: MICKEY SEE (SHU UEMURA)
HAIR: JANET DELA RAMA
LOCATION: CUBAO SHOE EXPO
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PABLO AND FUTURE PROSPECT

WHITE top and black long skirt both from Marni's Room by Louis Claparols and Bobby Carlos

# Friends in fashion

By Pam Pastor

Seven designers, four photos, one bazaar, countless finds

YOU THINK THEY'D BE COMPETING. That they'd try to top one another and create enough drama to fill a book. You wouldn't be surprised if people went to such extremes. After all, there are so many fashion and accessory designers in the Philippines.

But that's not true in the case of accessories designers Cielo Frontreras, Ming Ong, Irene Pineda and Mickey See and three members of the Young Designers Guild, Patty Eustaquio, Louis Claparols and Yvonne Quisumbing. All seven designers have been friends for over four years now. They share many things, including their latest fashion adventures—and sometimes, even suppliers.

"We all have the same goal, to sell. We do not need to compete or try to outdo each other. Instead, we should all tap into our creativity and keep fashion fresh and current. That will result in sell-out success," Irene says.

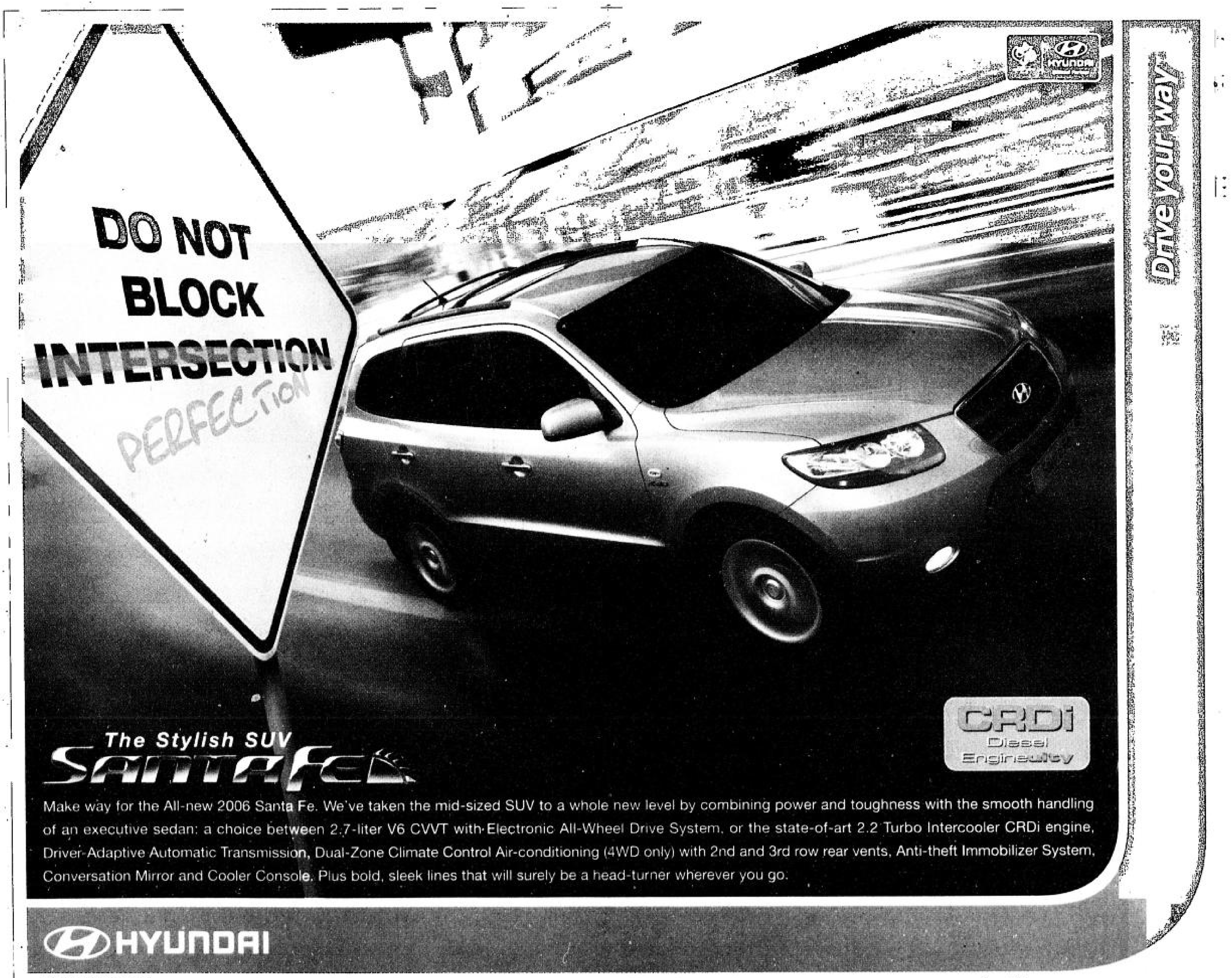
These designers, who will all showcase their creations at the Rockwell Vintage Bazaar Aug. 19-20 at the Rockwell Tent, worked on this special Fashion Freaks shoot.

The bazaar, themed Marché du Monde (Market of the World), will feature these designers and more.

Now that's what we call a really friendly competition.

*E-mail thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com*

NECKLACE and bag from Obra, the new line of artsy, glamour pieces by Ming Ong of Kathang Kamay



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AUGUST DELA CRUZ

"KRISTINE (right) has matured a lot," says Diether.

# Kristine, Diet still pursuing annulment

**By Bayani San Diego Jr.**

ASKED WHETHER HE STILL QUARRELS with girlfriend Kristine Hermosa, Diether Ocampo quips, "Constantly. Inevitably."

He hastily clarifies: "When we guested on 'The Buzz' recently we had just reconciled after a fight. That's normal for us. I'd be worried if things were too quiet between us."

He believes that "negative situations offer lessons that help us grow."

Kristine, he points out, "has matured a lot" in the past two years they've been a couple.

"She has become more open and independent. When I ask her to do something for [my charity group] KIDS Foundation, she knows how to go about it on her own, unlike before when she was always unsure of herself."

They have somehow coped with their age gap, which he describes as "big ... and let's leave it at that."

"I can see that she's eager to learn. I assure her that when I correct her, it's not to hurt her, that she shouldn't take it personally."

In any case, the couple had to go through the proverbial wringer before reaching this stage.

In fast-forward motion, they went through a courtship, a civil wedding, public spats and a controversial annulment last year. Although they've happily reconciled, they're still pursuing the annulment case "to correct past mistakes," Diether explains.

If there's one lesson they've learned from that mess, he points out, "It's that we shouldn't have been in such a rush. We should always consider everything and everyone in our lives before making a major

KRISTINE/ D2

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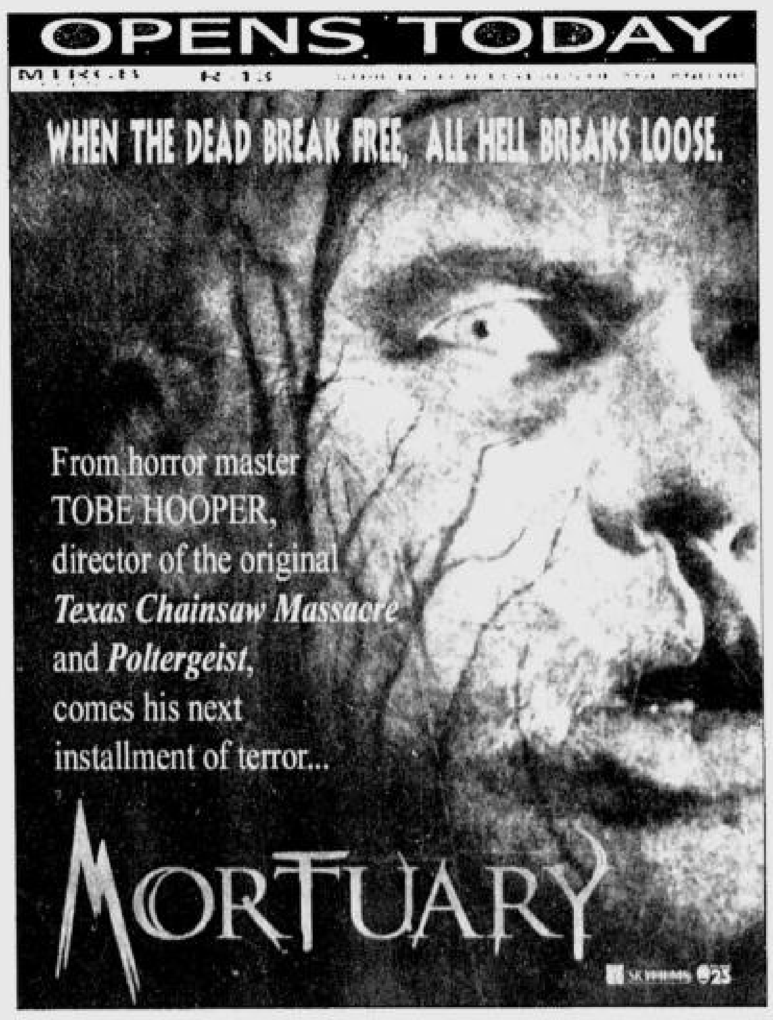
**OPENS TODAY**
MTRCB R-13


WHEN THE DEAD BREAK FREE, ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.
MORTUARY

From horror master TOBE HOOPER, director of the original *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* and *Poltergeist*, comes his next installment of terror...

Bossa Nova THURSDAYS
with Sitti

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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 AMERICAN DREAMZ
12:50, 3:25, 6:00, 8:35, 11:05
PG-13

2 CLICK
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05
PG-13

3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
R-13

4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 3

# Kristine, Diet still pursuing annulment

From page D1

decision. We have to think about the consequences of our actions."

He admits: "We had a you-and-me-against-the-world complex. Now, we're involving everyone—our families, our co-workers. If everything is planned well, the outcome will surely be positive."

There was talk that Kristine's family was vehemently against the union.

"Her family's resistance was normal and understandable. I didn't take it against them. Now, we're okay."

That's why Diether, Kristine and their respective families were hardly ruffled when, it was rumored that he had another love child with the mother of his firstborn, Dream. "It's a persistent rumor," he says, "but that's impossible. Every time I visit my son, who lives with his mom, we're surrounded by relatives."

### New 'babies'

His only new "babies," he insists, are his new magazine Baby Couture and KIDS Foundation. Baby Couture is the third publication, after Uno and A-List, from Diether and his partners in 5 Leaf.

Among the foundation's first beneficiaries are the children of Naswak, Benguet who, Diether says, walk for hours just to reach the nearest school.

### Unknown benefactor

"We hiked for 11 kilometers through a thick forest to reach the place. But what took us eight hours, only takes the kids four hours. I asked the companies whose products I endorse to help the kids. And since there was no electricity in their village at the time, at first they had no idea who I was."

Diether, with his laptop, has put together a music video (made up of photographs he took in Naswak and "Not Alone," a song he recorded with his band Blow), which he uploaded on the organization's web site (www.kidsfoundation.com.ph).

"It combined all my passions: music, photography and helping kids," Diether says.

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MORTUARY 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
AMERICAN DREAMZ 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:35 / 2:55 / 5:15 / 7:35 / 9:55
BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30
KUBRADOR 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
OH MY GHOST 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
ANT BULLY 12:50 / 2:50 / 4:50
MIAMI VICE 6:50 / 9:30
CLICK 12:25 / 2:45 / 5:05 / 7:25 / 9:45
SUKOB 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20

**Ali MALL 5**
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
SUKOB 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
OH MY GHOST 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35
BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 12:15 / 3:05 / 5:55 / 8:45
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For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

**ARANETA COLISEUM**
Aug. 16, Wed. PBA GOODWILL GAMES
7 pm - SMC RP NATIONAL TEAM vs LEBANON NATIONAL TEAM
VINA MORALES : SHOWGIRL
August 18, Friday - 8:00 pm

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—Stephanie Frederic, LA SENTINEL

Based on the bestselling novel by Richard Price

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

JD FORTUNE'S new "brothers" (from left): Farriss brothers Andrew, Tim and Jon, Kirk Pengilly and Garry Beers. JD says his "family of birth" aproves of his "family of choice." ROMY HOMILLADA

# 'I love these guys! I love this band!'

**By Fran Katigbak**

"I LOVE THIS BAND! I LOVE THIS BAND!" declared INXS front man JD Fortune, leaping onto a couch a la Tom Cruise during a press conference in Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on Monday.

"I'm like Tom Cruise and they (INXS) are my Katie Holmes," said the Canadian singer who beat an impressive lineup of contenders in last year's reality TV show "Rock Star: INXS" to become the Aussie rock band's new lead singer.

Last night's concert at the Araneta Coliseum was the group's first in the Philippines in its 30-year history.

"I draw my strength from these five talented musicians, brothers I have onstage," said the 31-year-old rocker of bandmates Andrew Farriss (keyboards/guitar), Tim Farriss (guitar), Jon Farriss (drums), Garry Beers (bass), and Kirk Pengilly (guitar/sax/vocals).

"I have this other family on the road," JD gushed. My family of birth is really happy about my family of choice."

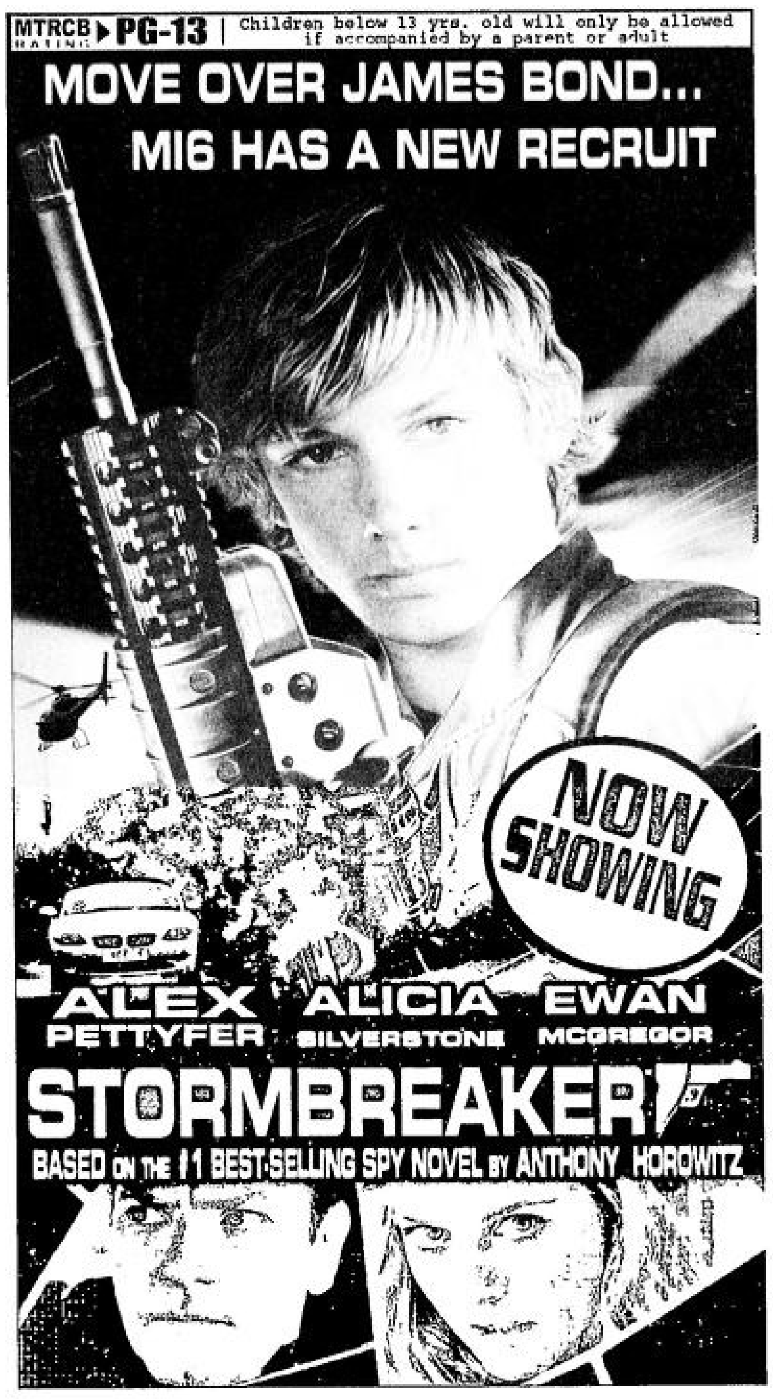
## Hutch's around

The original INXS members agreed that JD's enthusiasm had invigorated them, but that the spirit of Michael Hutchence, their first front man, had definitely stayed with them. "Hutch" had died in 1997, an apparent suicide.

"There's no way we can dispute that [Michael's still around somehow] because we grew up together as kids," said Andrew. "But JD's our guy [now], so ... we're a family again, INXS as one. That's the most important thing."

After the long hiatus, has the band experienced

I LOVE/ D6


MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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NOW SHOWING
ALEX PETTYFER
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## AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

THX

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| **G1** GLORIETTA 1 | 1 MIAMI VICE | 2 CLICK | 3 STORMBREAKER | 4 SUKOB |
| **G4** GLORIETTA 4 | 1 SUKOB | 2 MIAMI VICE | 3 THX CLICK 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 JUST MY LCUK | 5 FIERCE PEOPLE | 6 ANT BULLY | 7 STORMBREAKER |
| **GB1** GREENBELT 1 | 1 SUKOB | 2 CLICK | | |
| **GB3** GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX CLICK 2:20, 4:35, 6:0, 9:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX THE ANT BULLY 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | | |
| | 3 SUKOB 2:36, 4:46, 6:56, 9:06, 11:16 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 FIERCE PEOPLE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 MIAMI VICE 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| **ATC** ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THX CLICK | 2 MIAMI VICE | | |
| | 3 SUKOB | 4 ANT BULLY | 5 STORMBREAKER | |
| **ACC** AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 CLICK | 2 JUST MY LUCK | 3 THE BREAK-UP | 4 WOLF CREEK |
| **M2** MARKET! MARKET! | 1 CLICK | 2 STORMBREAKER | | |
| | 3 ANT BULLY | 4 SUKOB | 5 MIAMI VICE | |

## At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

| GLORIETTA | ALABANG TOWN CENTER |
|---|---|
| Ansons Exhibit<br>August 7 to 22, 2006 | Cirque Imago<br>August 18 to 20 |
| **AYALA CENTER CEBU** | **MARKET! MARKET!** |
| 5th Philippines Robotics Olympiad<br>August 26, 2006 | PBA Draft<br>August 20, 2006 |

GREENBELT
Jazz Nights at GB 2
August 16, 23 & 30, 2006

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at REP's Globe Theater - Aug. 12, 20, 26, Sept. 3, 9, Oct. 14 & 22
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Ayala MUSEUM
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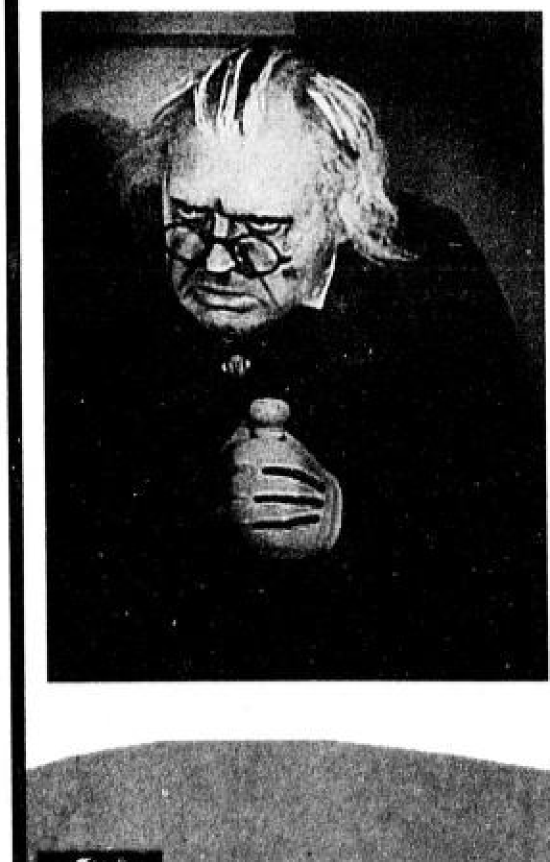
June 27 to August 27, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org



GOETHE-INSTITUT MANILA
Ayala Malls CINEMAS

The 3rd German Silent Film Festival
presents
The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari
with music by
Radioactive Sago Project
on Tuesday, August 15, 2006,
at Greenbelt 1 Cinema 1, 8:00 PM

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Jazz Nights
with PIDO
at Greenbelt 2
August 16 & 30, 2006
7:30 p.m.
with JINKY VIDAL of FREESTYLE
at Greenbelt 2
August 9 & 23, 2006
7:30 p.m.
105.1
GREENBELT

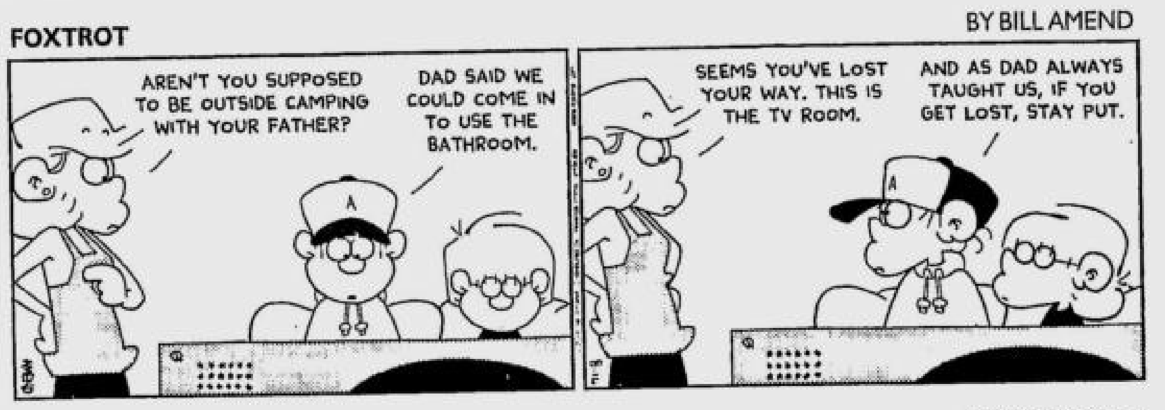
# ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2006

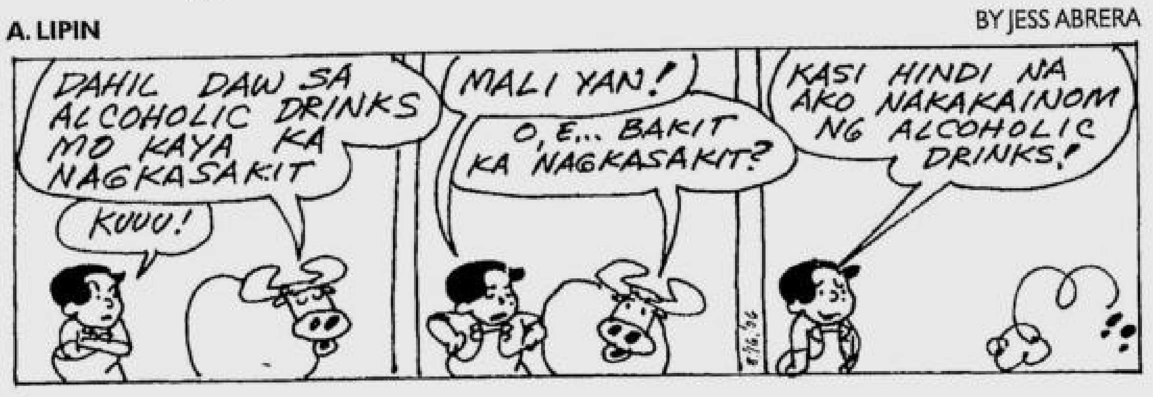
### FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE OUTSIDE CAMPING WITH YOUR FATHER?
DAD SAID WE COULD COME IN TO USE THE BATHROOM.
SEEMS YOU'VE LOST YOUR WAY. THIS IS THE TV ROOM.
AND AS DAD ALWAYS TAUGHT US, IF YOU GET LOST, STAY PUT.

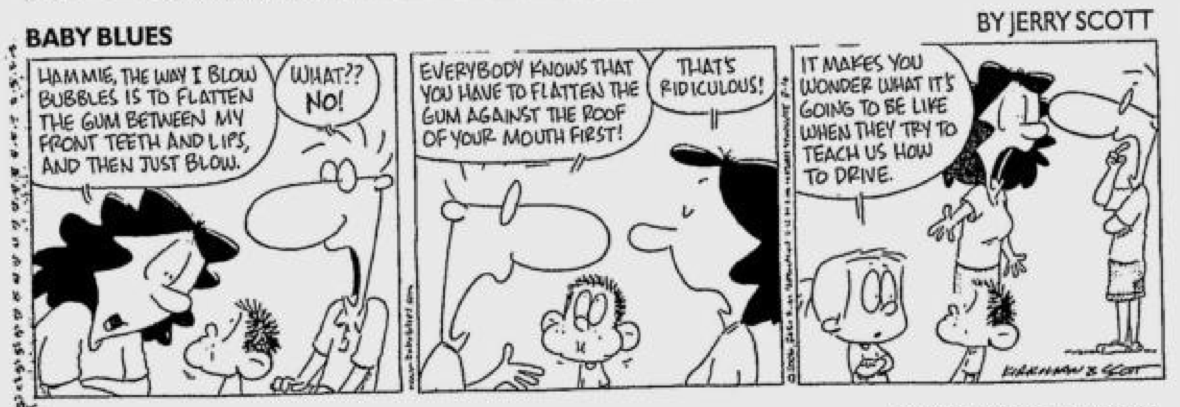
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAHIL DAW SA ALCOHOLIC DRINKS MO KAYA KA NAGKASAKIT
KUUU!
MALI YAN!
O, E... BAKIT KA NAGKASAKIT?
KASI HINDI NA AKO NAKAKAINOM NG ALCOHOLIC DRINKS!

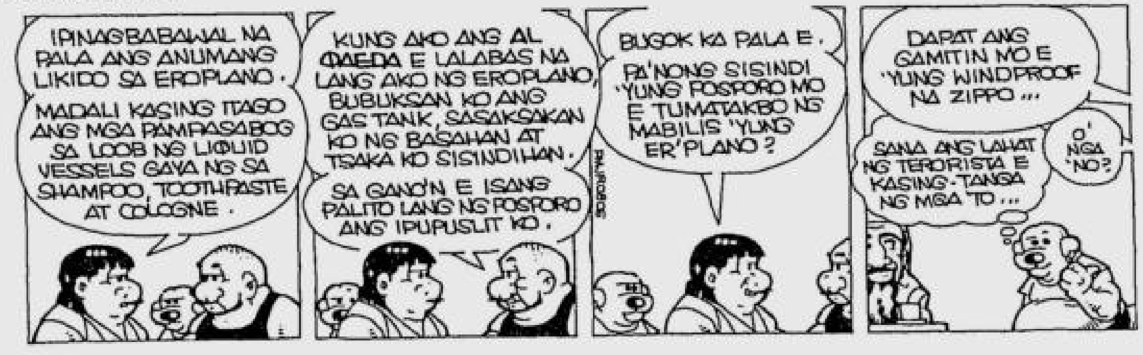
### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE, THE WAY I BLOW BUBBLES IS TO FLATTEN THE GUM BETWEEN MY FRONT TEETH AND LIPS, AND THEN JUST BLOW.
WHAT?? NO!
EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT YOU HAVE TO FLATTEN THE GUM AGAINST THE ROOF OF YOUR MOUTH FIRST!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
IT MAKES YOU WONDER WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE WHEN THEY TRY TO TEACH US HOW TO DRIVE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

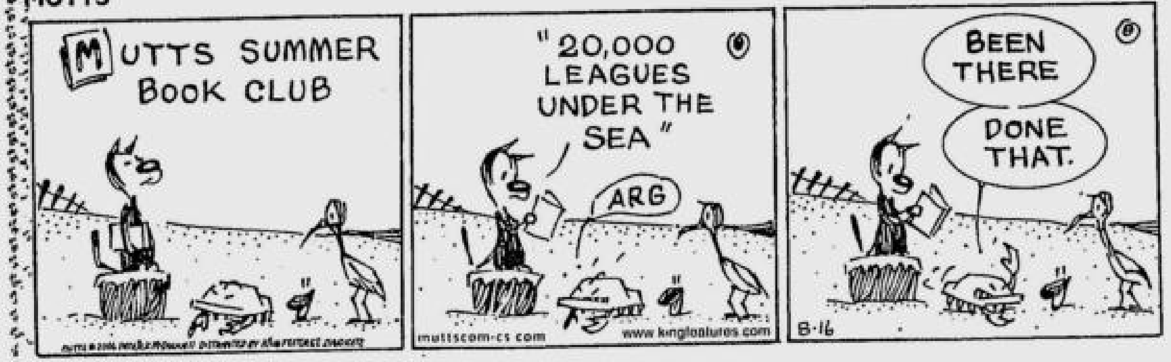
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IPINAGBABAWAL NA PALA ANG ANUMANG LIKIDO SA EROPLANO.
MADALI KASING ITAGO ANG MGA PAMPASABOG SA LOOB NG LIQUID VESSELS GAYA NG SA SHAMPOO, TOOTHPASTE AT COLOGNE.
KUNG AKO ANG AL QAEDA E LALABAS NA LANG AKO NG EROPLANO, BUBUKSAN KO ANG GAS TANK, SASAKSAKAN KO NG BASAHAN AT TSAKA KO SISINDIHAN.
SA GANO'N E ISANG PALITO LANG NG POSPORO ANG IPUPUSLIT KO.
BUGOK KA PALA E.
PA'NONG SISINDI 'YUNG POSPORO MO E TUMATAKBO NG MABILIS 'YUNG ER'PLANO?
DAPAT ANG GAMITIN MO E 'YUNG WINDPROOF NA ZIPPO...
SANA ANG LAHAT NG TERORISTA E KASING-TANGA NG MGA 'TO...
O' NGA 'NO?

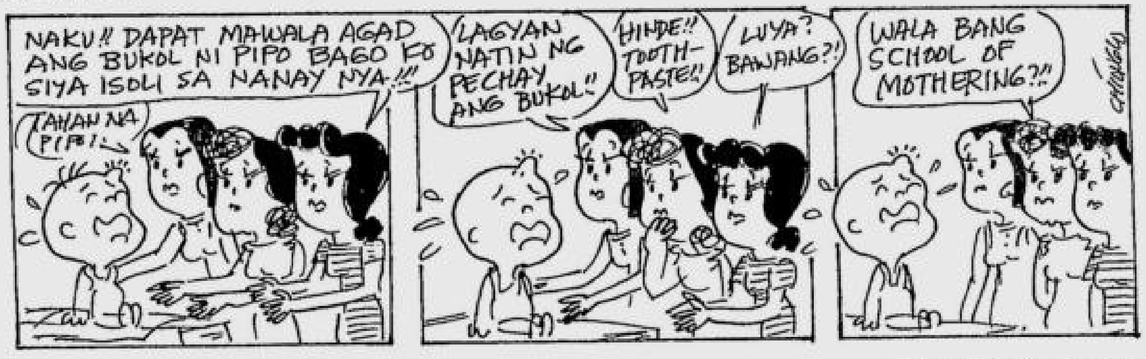
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MUTTS SUMMER BOOK CLUB
"20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA"
ARG
BEEN THERE
DONE THAT.
muttscom-cs com
www.kingfeatures.com
8-16

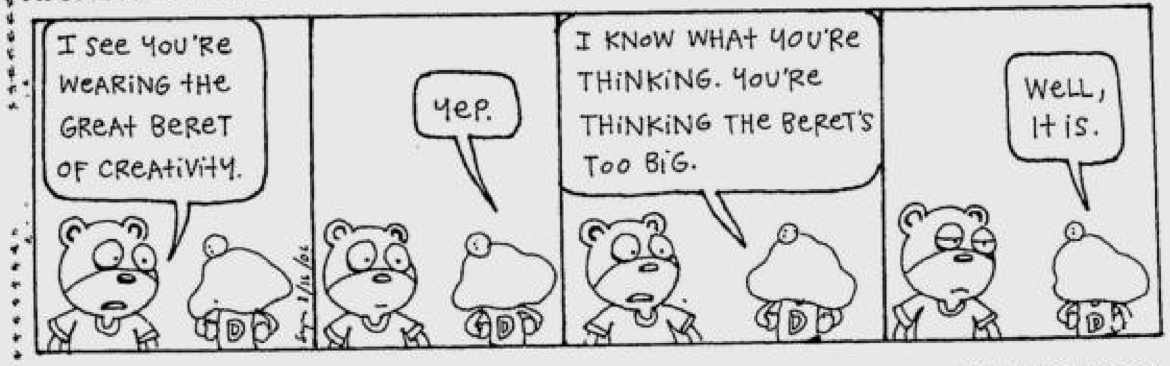
### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAKU!! DAPAT MAWALA AGAD ANG BUKOL NI PIPO BAGO KO SIYA ISOLI SA NANAY NYA!!!
TAHAN NA PIPI!
LAGYAN NATIN NG PECHAY ANG BUKOL!!
HINDE!! TOOTH-PASTE!!
LUYA? BAWANG?!
WALA BANG SCHOOL OF MOTHERING?!!
CHIONGLO

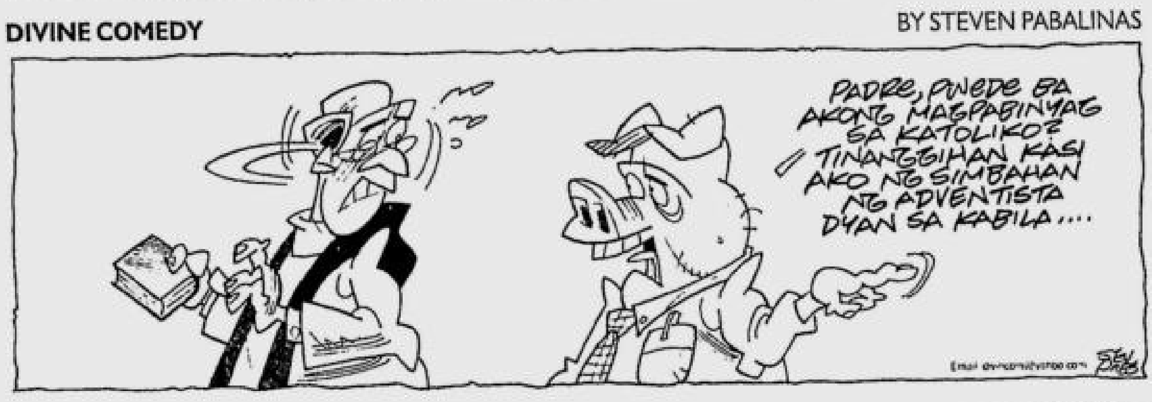
### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I see you're wearing the Great Beret of Creativity.
Yep.
I know what you're thinking. You're thinking the beret's too big.
Well, it is.

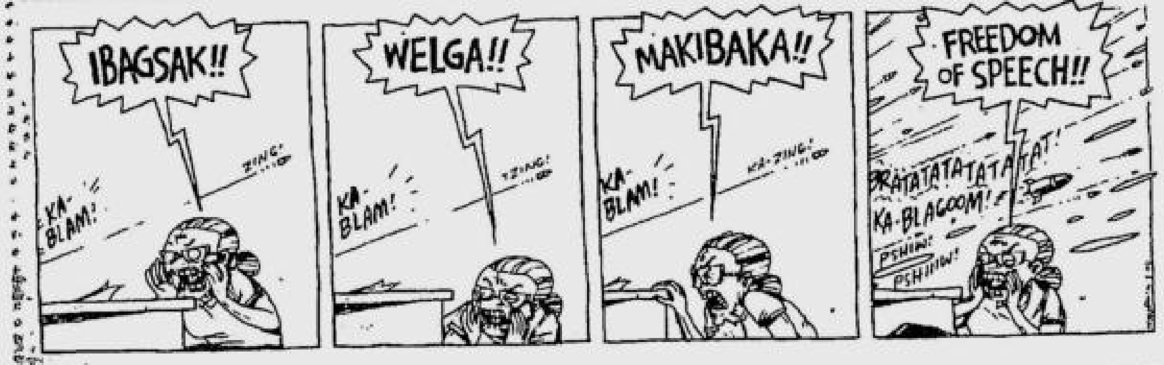
### DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PADRE, PWEDE BA AKONG MAGPABINYAG SA KATOLIKO? TINANGGIHAN KASI AKO NG SIMBAHAN NG ADVENTISTA DYAN SA KABILA....

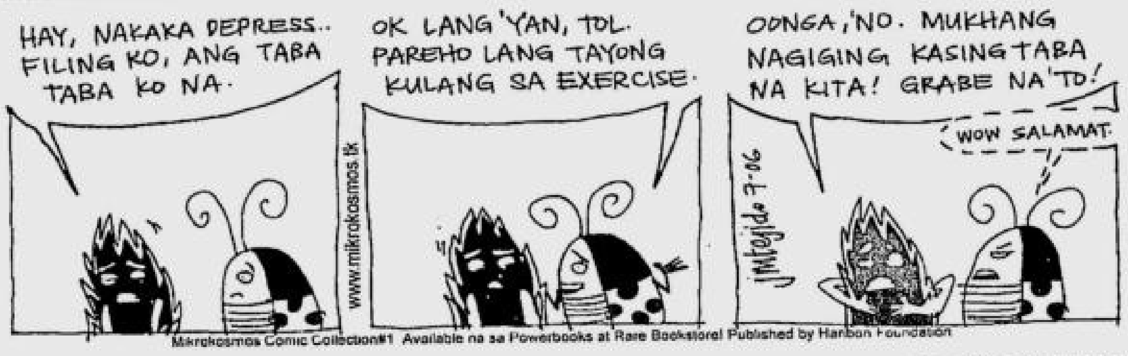
### KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


IBAGSAK!!
KA-BLAM!
ZING!
WELGA!!
KA-BLAM!
TZING!
MAKIBAKA!!
KA-BLAM!
KA-ZING!
FREEDOM OF SPEECH!!
BRATATATATATATAT!
KA-BLAGOOM!
PSHIIN!
PSHIIIW!

### MIKROKOSMOS

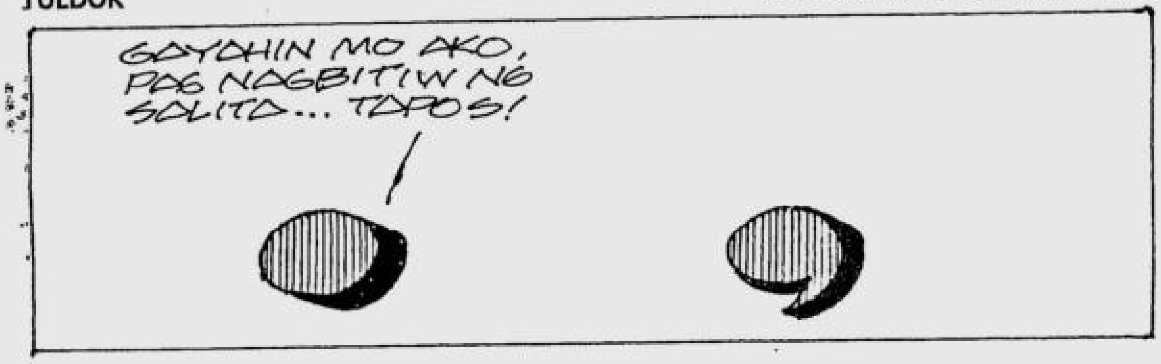
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAY, NAKAKA DEPRESS.. FILING KO, ANG TABA TABA KO NA.
OK LANG 'YAN, TOL. PAREHO LANG TAYONG KULANG SA EXERCISE.
OONGA, 'NO. MUKHANG NAGIGING KASING TABA NA KITA! GRABE NA 'TO!
WOW SALAMAT.
www.mikrokosmos.tk
jmtejido 7-06

Mikrokosmos Comic Collection#1 Available na sa Powerbooks at Rare Bookstore! Published by Hanbon Foundation

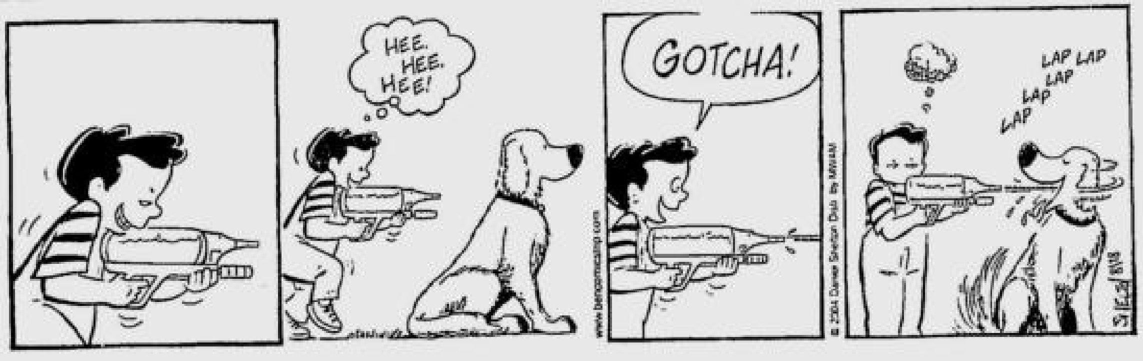
### TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


GAYAHIN MO AKO, PAG NAGBITIW NG SALITA... TAPOS!

### BEN

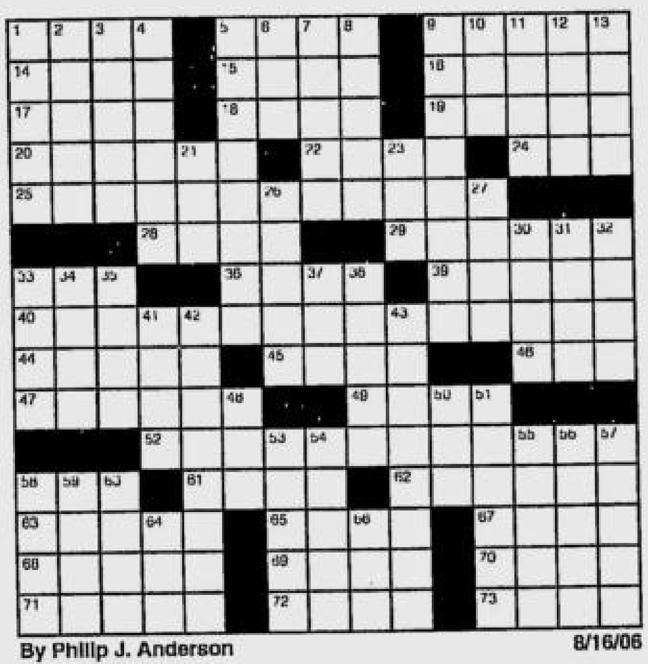
BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEE. HEE. HEE!
GOTCHA!
LAP LAP LAP LAP LAP

## DAILY CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**
1 Play's players
5 Small valley
9 Hobo
14 Body or knock lead-in
15 False god
16 Corporal O'Reilly
17 Cozy
18 Slight advantage
19 Eel at a sushi bar
20 Basic beliefs
22 Pierre's girlfriend
24 Periphery
25 More baseball
28 Nimble
29 Soak
33 Appendage
36 Ruer's word
39 Aviator Balbo
40 More basketball
44 Bone: pref.
45 Roman tyrant
46 Flock female
47 Protective device
49 Promissory notes
52 More football
58 El Al dest.
61 Flanders river
62 ENT word
63 Informal vocabulary
65 Bushy do
67 Uncontrolled binge
68 Greek colony
69 Gather in
70 Jodie Foster film
71 Police singer
72 Yule drinks
73 Elation

**DOWN**
1 Hindu social class
2 Building add-on
3 Movie daredevilry
4 Comerica Park team
5 Day of wrath
6 Contribute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By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

8/16/06

7 Boston's airport
8 Oily resin
9 John Wayne's Oscar winner
10 Sought office
11 Hebrew month
12 Creche threesome
13 Strait-laced
21 Spigot
23 Mich. neighbor
26 Drip-dry fabric
27 Planet-finding grp.
30 Christen
31 Mainsail corner
32 Hydrant attachment
33 Hubbubs
34 __ Hashanah
35 Maestro Riccardo
37 Forum farewell
38 Flourish on a letter
41 Horn signal
42 Dawdle
43 Landing sites for Santa
48 "__ Kapital"
50 Expression of repugnance
51 Wraparound skirt
53 Long (for)
54 Monteverdi opera
55 Edible mushroom
56 Philly player
57 Fashion
58 Egyptian goddess
59 Opening for a coin
60 Rajah's wife
64 Diarist Anais
66 Tattered cloth

**Tuesday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | T | I | S | ■ | S | E | L | F | ■ | S | W | E | A | T |
| N | O | S | E | ■ | T | S | A | R | ■ | T | A | I | G | A |
| T | W | E | N | T | Y | T | W | O | ■ | R | I | G | E | L |
| O | N | E | ■ | O | M | E | N | ■ | B | E | T | H | E | L |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | A | M | I | S | ■ | C | R | E | S | T | ■ | ■ |
| A | T | T | L | E | E | ■ | T | R | A | P | ■ | Y | E | P |
| L | A | H | T | I | ■ | P | R | O | W | ■ | A | F | A | R |
| O | K | I | E | ■ | B | R | O | W | N | ■ | C | O | R | E |
| H | E | R | R | ■ | L | O | U | D | ■ | P | O | U | T | S |
| A | R | T | ■ | S | E | N | T | ■ | M | Y | R | R | H | S |
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| R | A | N | C | I | D | ■ | F | I | L | M | ■ | L | B | J |
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8/15/06

## HOROSCOPE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** Something about you is very distinctive. You stand out in a crowd. (Perhaps this is because you're not afraid to speak up or call attention to yourself.) You have high ideals. You want to work for the highest good. Major changes can take place this year, perhaps as significant as in 1997.
**Birthdate of:** Madonna, entertainer; Angela Bassett, actress; Timothy Hutton, actor.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Trust your creative ideas today. You feel powerful and ready for action. You're also ready for fun, parties, playful times and sports. (Your competitive edge is very sharp now.)

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** This is a wonderful day to make improvements to where you live. By the same token, you can also improve relationships within your family dynamic. Talk things out.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** You're extremely convincing today! In fact, you're empowered in every way. The Moon is in your sign today, and this gives you a slight edge over everyone else.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** You might have great ideas about how to use your possessions or your money to make improvements somewhere. These improvements could be in your own life or in the lives of others.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** What can you do today to improve your appearance? This is the perfect time to start a diet or a new health regimen. (Especially if the only exercise you get is running up debt.)

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** This is a wonderful day for research and digging for facts. All kinds of hidden knowledge and secrets are revealed to you if you look long enough and carefully enough.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Conversations with friends and members of groups are very powerful today. Somebody might come on too strong. Actually, that person might be you!

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** You can make an excellent impression on important people today. Parents, teachers, bosses—even the police—will listen to what you have to say.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** You feel passionately about your ideas today. You're so enthused about them that you want to spread the word. Keep in mind that not everyone might want to listen.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** You might see ways to use shared property or the wealth of others to make improvements somewhere. It's a good day for fundraising, getting a loan or using the possessions of others.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Consultants, counselors or friends might have advice for you about how to improve your closest relationships. Listen to what others have to say.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** This is the perfect day to try to introduce reforms and improvements to where you work. Similarly, you might see new ways of becoming healthier or adopting a better diet.

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

### Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | | | | 8 | | | | 1 |
| | 2 | | | | | | 6 | |
| | | 6 | 3 | | 5 | 4 | | |
| | | 9 | | | | 1 | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | | 5 | | | | 8 | | |
| | | 1 | 4 | | 8 | 5 | | |
| | 3 | | | | | | 7 | |
| 2 | | | | 9 | | | | 4 |

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8/16

Difficulty Level ★★★

**HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU**

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

**Answer to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| 2 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| 3 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 |

Difficulty Level ★★

# Goma: Rufa Mae should have just confronted me

**By Marinel R. Cruz**

"RUFA MAE SHOULD HAVE PERSONALLY talked to me if I had offended her. She didn't have to involve other people."

Actor-TV host Richard Gomez was speaking with INQUIRER Entertainment about the brewing feud between him and actress-comedian Rufa Mae Quinto over a comment he allegedly made about the actress' boyfriend, Erik Santos. Gomez said the rumors started in Quinto's camp.

In the show biz talk program "S-Files," the actor on Sunday denied saying Santos was gay and that Quinto would be better off with Piolo Pascual, another actor rumored to be gay.

Gomez explained in a phone interview: "This all happened on the set of 'SOP' some three weeks ago. I was having a chat with Regine (Velasquez) about the latest *chismis* in show biz. Peachy (Quinto's nickname) was there. Only the three of us were in that room. I said tabloids had reported that Erik was gay and that the story had been going around for some time now. That was from research done by the 'S-Files' team. I never said it was my personal opinion. Whether Piolo was mentioned, I don't remember."

## But why?

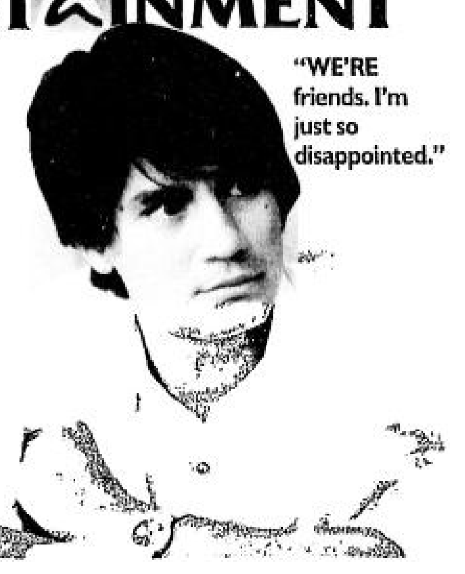
But Gomez said he was sure their private conversation would not have leaked to the press had Quinto not told anyone. "Why did she do that? We see each other on 'SOP' every Sunday. She could have just told me she was upset. I love her as a friend, she knows that. I wouldn't do anything to hurt her."

On Sunday, "The Buzz" hosts Cristy Fermin and Jobert Sucaldito defended Santos and Pascual, saying Gomez's remarks were uncalled for, especially since Gomez had been embroiled in a similar gossip in the past.

"I don't think I need to react to those comments," Gomez said.

A source close to Gomez said it was possible that the issue was being used to drum up interest in Quinto's upcoming comedy film "Oh My Ghost" and the concert she is scheduled to have with Santos later this year.

"I'm so disappointed," said Gomez. "I hope that's not true."



"WE'RE friends. I'm just so disappointed."

# Foreign toons ban in China

BEIJING—D'OH! CHINA HAS BANISHED Homer Simpson, Pokemon and Mickey Mouse from prime time. The Monkey King and his Chinese pals get the top TV viewing hours to themselves.

Regulators have barred foreign cartoons from TV in the "Golden Hours" of 5 to 8 p.m. beginning Sept. 1 in an effort to protect China's struggling animation studios, news reports said Sunday.

The ban hasn't been formally announced, but newspapers already were criticizing it Sunday as the wrong way to improve programming for Chinese children, who they said clearly prefer foreign animation.

**DID YOU KNOW...**

"This is a worrying, shortsighted policy and will not solve the fundamental problems in China's cartoon industry," the Southern Metropolis News said. "The viewing masses, whether adults or children, will have no choice but to passively support Chinese products."

## Officials frustrated

Foreign cartoons, especially from Japan, are hugely popular with Chinese children, and the country's own animation studios have struggled to compete with a flood of imports.

Communist leaders are said to be frustrated that so many cartoons seen by China's 250 million children are foreign-made, especially after efforts to build up Chinese animation studios.

Chinese animators produce hundreds of hours of programs a year but aren't known for flair or originality. They draw on traditional stories such as "Journey to the West," about the adventures of the Monkey King, and have yet to invent characters to match the appeal of Mickey Mouse or Japanese icons such as Pokemon.

The cartoon campaign comes amid efforts by President Hu Jintao's government to tighten control over other pop culture, ranging from movies to magazines and websites.

## Scary movies

TV stations have been told to limit foreign programming, stop showing scary movies in prime time and have their hosts dress more conservatively and use fewer English words on the air.

Most cartoons on China Central Television, the national broadcaster, are Chinese-made. But more freewheeling local broadcasters show everything from "The Simpsons" to Japanese, South Korean and European cartoons dubbed into Chinese.

Chinese studios employ thousands of skilled animators, but many focus on doing work subcontracted by the Walt Disney Co., Warner Bros. and other Western or Japanese studios.

The government also protects Chinese film studios by limiting imports of foreign titles. But that strategy appears to have backfired by creating a market for pirated movies. *AP*

## Back to the field

**CHEER FACTOR**

DYERSVILLE, IOWA—KEVIN COSTNER joined about 5,000 people who packed a baseball field made famous by "Field of Dreams" for a free screening of the 1989 film. The event, sponsored by online DVD rental company Netflix Inc., is the fifth stop in a 10-city tour featuring classic movies at the locations they were filmed.

The baseball diamond and lush outfield look just like they did in the film. *AP*

"MIAMI VICE"
TRIVIA PROMO

Answer the "Miami Vice"
trivia questions in our daily
movieguide. Cut and drop entries
at any Robinsons Movieworld branch
on or before August 16.
Winners will get any of the following:

- *Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila Gift Certificate*
- *Gift packs from Solar-UIP*
- *Robinsons Gift Certificate*

**winners will be notified via registered mail only.*

now showing at
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

JAMIE FOXX
COLIN FARRELL
MIAMI VICE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "COLLATERAL" AND "HEAT"
www.miamivice.com

A Seat fit for the Li'l King

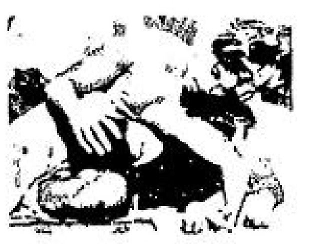
Introducing
the Ayala Malls Cinemas
**BOOSTER BUDDY.**

Its two-sided design provides height options for children of different ages.

It has a cup and candy holder.
It's odorless and has no sharp corners.

Its lightweight design allows children to carry their own seat.

Ayala Malls CINEMAS



GOETHE-INSTITUT
MANILA

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

The 3rd German
Silent Film Festival
presents

Tabu
with music by Bo Razon

on Tuesday, August 22, 2006,
at Greenbelt 1 Cinema 1, 8:00 PM

making great things possible
Globe

OPENS TODAY
CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD
GRADED A

...MORE reasons why you should not miss this film!
The cinema evaluation board members comment-

*Jeffrey Jeturian's direction was "excellent" and "his best to date." His direction was unobtrusive but very strong. The film is shot almost as a documentary."*
*"He took the hardest way of directing and yet he succeeds!"*

*The acting is "excellent and is totoong-totoo."*

*"...the acting is extreme well done by all. It seemed as if they were not actors at all."*

*The screenplay was "very good" or even "excellent" and "great." "The storytelling is in the neorealist style. Research is unbelievably accurate." "Maganda ang screenplay... hyper-realistic and colorful."*

*"... the best I have seen this year. Pasintabi silang lahat!"*

*"All aspects of the film are commendable!"*

*The cinematography was "great" and "amazing." The scenes covered with the hand-held camera were noteworthy. "The long takes are incredible!" The camerawork was "raw" and sensitive." "The limitations of digital filmmaking are obvious... but they don't seem to matter here."*

*"We get a new understanding of the umbilical cord tying the poor to jueteng. For these shanty dwellers, jueteng is neither illegal or immoral. It is just a normal part of their life. Jeturian is neither judgmental nor didactic nor condescending in his story-telling.. just matter-of-fact, straightforward and unsentimental."*

BEST FILM
BEST ACTRESS
FIPRESCI
Jury Prize
BEST FILM
8th Osian Cine Fan
Festival of Asian Cinema

FIPRESCI
Jury Prize
BEST FILM
28th Moscow
International Film Festival

50th London Film Festival
31st Toronto International Film Festival
11th Pusan International Film Festival
26th Hawaii International Film Festival
30th Sao Paulo International Film Festival
25th Vancouver International Film Festival
27th Thessaloniki International Film Festival
33rd Brussels Independent Film Festival
5th Mumbai Asian Film Festival
7th Rome Asiatica Film Mediale
2nd Antalya Eurasian Film Festival
OFFICIAL SELECTION

MLR Films *presents* GINA PAREÑO
JUETENG
KUBRADOR
R-13
a film by JEFFREY JETURIAN

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 CLICK 11:00, 1:15, 3:30 5:45, 8:00, 10:20 PG-13
CINEMA 2 MORTUARY 11:20, 1:35, 3:50 6:05, 8:20, 10:35 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinertertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 AMERICAN DREAMZ 10:30, 12:45, 3:15 5:45, 8:15, 10:35 PG-13
CINEMA 4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 11:10, 2:00, 4:50 7:40, 10:30 R-13
CINEMA 5 SUPER EX-GIRLFFRIEND 10:30, 12:50, 3:10 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 R-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
AUG. 17,18,24,25 & 31 GARY V. 8:00PM
AUG. 26, 2006 NONOY ZUNIGA 8:00PM

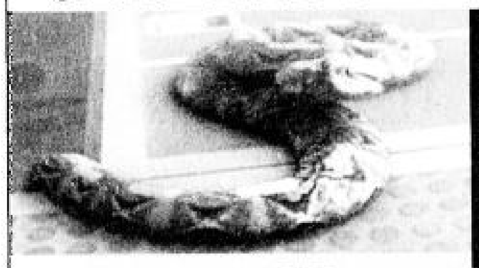
TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY DANCE NIGHT 7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY CERRUDO CLASSICO 8:00PM
AUG. 19, 2006 PRIME COUNSEL 9:00PM
AUG. 24-26, 2006 DAVID POMERANZ 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722 4532 LOC 116
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND MTRCB R-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ MTRCB PG-13 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT (Subject for MTRCB Rating)
4 CLICK MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE ANT BULLY MTRCB GP 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

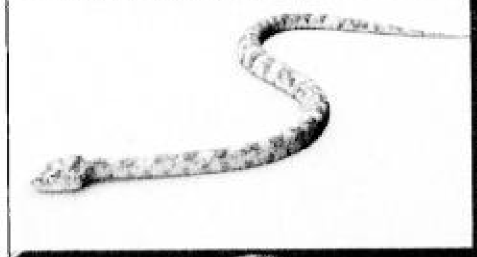
Catch the Cineplex Special
Shang Cineplex MONDAYS AND TUESDAY SPECIALS are back!
On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14 enjoy special prices of P99 for Cinemas 1-4 P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, and in conjunction with other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.
Specials last until Nov. 14, 2006 See posters and flyers for details
Per DTI NCR Permit No. A3 [illegible] Series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

OPENS AUGUST 23
THE DEADLY SNAKES OF
'SNAKES ON A PLANE'

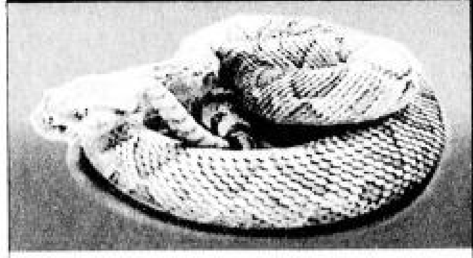


**PIT VIPER**
Named for their pits, these vipers can seek out warm-blooded preys easily.

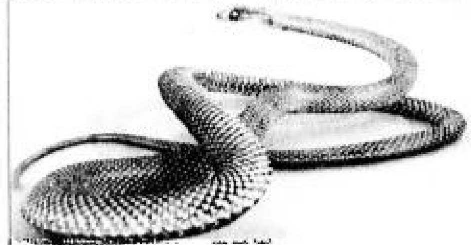


**PORTHIDIUM**
Highly poisonous, their venom instantly kills their prey on contact.

**RAINBOW BOA**
Native to Peru, this constrictor causes more human fatalities than sickness in a year.



**RATTLESNAKE**
Bites are deadly with fangs that inject large amounts of venom.



**SPECKLED RACER**
Fast-moving with unpredictable biting speed, it can inflict a deep venomous wound.

500 POISONOUS SNAKES
30,000 FEET IN THE AIR
DO NOT PANIC !

The THX experience.
Giving you more than the front seat.
A unique cinematic experience from the largest THX certified theatre operator in the country.
Ayala Malls Cinemas
THX
Ayala Malls CINEMAS

# 'I love these guys!

From page D3

changes in the concert circuit?

"It's a lot harder getting through airports," joked Andrew.

Aware of their influence on audiences, INXS has become keener on social awareness as well.

The youth all over the world, JD said, routinely receive a lot of "unpleasant" messages via media, especially television.

"Every time I turn on the TV there are people yelling and fighting," the rocker said. "To me, it's a rock star's obligation [to call attention to these]. If you make yourself count, then all of this stuff goes away."

JD, who penned the hit "Pretty Vegas" along with Andrew Farriss, and "Rock Star: INXS" finalists Marty Casey and Jordis Unga, has been pursuing another cause—helping less-known artists create music.

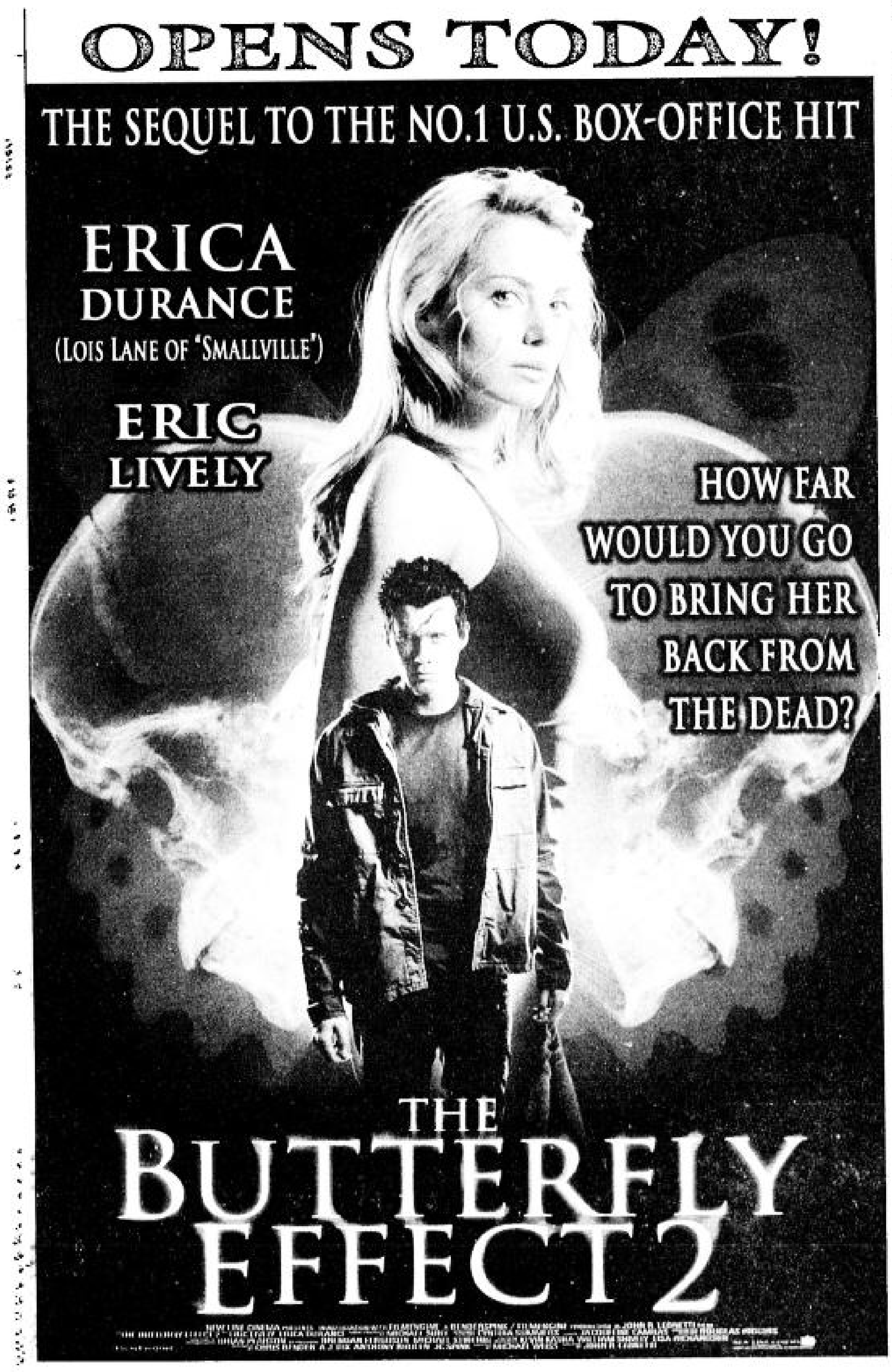
## Paying forward

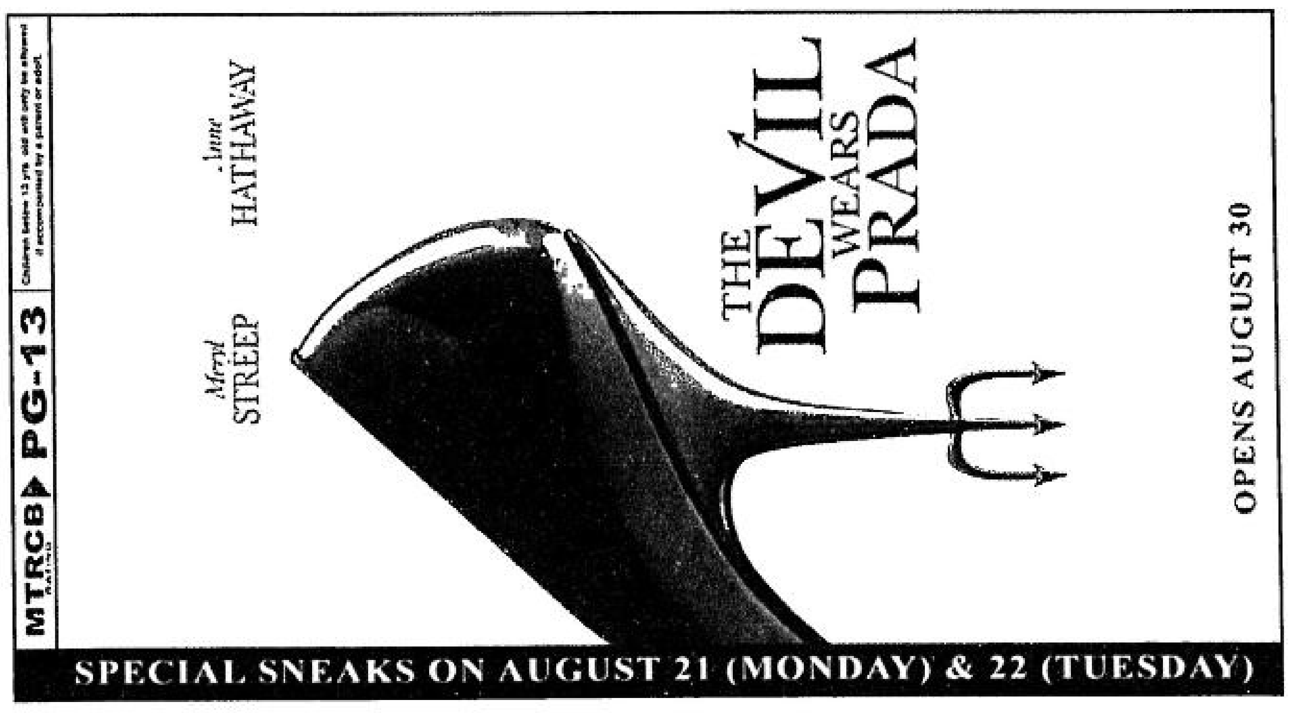
The musician said he had taken a "small step" towards giving back some of his good fortune by supporting his stepbrother, who is forming a new band.

"When this tour is finished, just like Andrew, Garry and everyone in the band, I plan on focusing some of my time on bands that need a break," said JD.

"We're lucky that any good music gets on the radio nowadays; everybody out there has got a record. We are so blessed [that Filipinos] have enough interest for us to come here."

JD FORTUNE: "He's our guy now," says INXS


OPENS TODAY!
THE SEQUEL TO THE NO.1 U.S. BOX-OFFICE HIT
ERICA DURANCE (LOIS LANE OF 'SMALLVILLE')
ERIC LIVELY
HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO BRING HER BACK FROM THE DEAD?
THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2


MTRCB PG-13
Meryl STREEP
Anne HATHAWAY
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
OPENS AUGUST 30
SPECIAL SNEAKS ON AUGUST 21 (MONDAY) & 22 (TUESDAY)

CATCH WHO WILL BE THE NEXT IDOL
MTRCB PG-13
Hugh GRANT
Dennis QUAID
Mandy MOORE
Willem DAFOE
American DREAMZ
OPENS TODAY
united international pictures
UNIVERSAL

## INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

Ang kwento ng panget na mas pinaganda!
Letty la más fea
iDOL ABC
mon-sun 6pm
Premieres Aug. 14
ABC
ClickTheCity.com

| Channel | 2:30PM | 3:00PM | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | 5:30PM | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABC 5 | | | | Dream Music Videos | PBA | | | | Sentro | PBA | | | | | Big News | Fear Factor | | | |
| ABS-CBN 2 | | Kapamilya Cinema | | | Pasion de Amor | Zenki | Yakitate! Japan | Calla Lily | TV Patrol World | | Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal | Bituing Walang Ningning | | Sa Piling Mo | My Girl | A Love To Kill | Bandila | Probe | Mirada De Mujer |
| AXN | | CSI: NY (Season 2) | | Worlds Apart | | Ripley's Believe It or Not | | The Amazing Race Family Edition | | | | 30 Seconds To Fame | Samsung Sports World | Maximum Exposure (Season II) | | CSI: Miami (Season 4) | | CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5) | |
| Cartoon Network | Pixie & Dixie/ My Little Pony | All New Popeye Show | I am Weasel | Tom & Jerry Show | Baby Looney Tunes | Winx Club | Xiaolin Showdown | Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends | The Simpsons | Samurai Jack/ Sayonara Samurai Jack | PokeMon | Dice | Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King | The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog | Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons | The Batman/ Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021 | X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed | Static Shock/ Shaman King |
| Cinema One | | Abel Morado | | | | Milan | | | | Bahagam Kahit Sandali | | | Persona | Sinungaling Mong Puso | | | | Linlang | |
| Cinemax | The Birds (2:40PM) | | | | Chaos 39 (4:40PM) | | | | Buffalo Soldiers (6:25PM) | | | The Stars Fell On Henrietta | | | | A Kiss Before Dying (9:50PM) | | | Psycho IV: The Beginning |
| CNN | | Business International | | World News | World Sport | Larry King Live | | Business International | World Sport | World News Asia | | World News | World Sport | World News Asia | World News Asia | Your World Today | | | |
| Crime/Suspense | | Cold Case | | Law & Order Special Victims Unit | | Profiler | | Forensic Files | I, Detective | Law & Order | | Law & Order Special Victims Unit | | Tequila Sunrise | | | | The Grid | |
| Discovery Channel | Building The Ultimate | Perfect Disaster | | American Chopper | | The History Of Singapore | | Building The Biggest | | Wild Discovery | | Hour China | | Conspiracy Theories | | A Haunting | | Psychic Witness | |
| Disney Channel | Mr. Bean, The Animated Series | Totally Spies | Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny | Sabrina, The Animated Series | Lilo & Stitch | Martin Mystery | Totally Spies | Kim Possible | Mr. Bean, The Animated Series | That's So Raven | Wonderful World Of Disney | | | American Dragon | Buzz on Maggie | Buzz on Maggie | Totally Spies | Wonderful World Of Disney | |
| ESPN | | | | Kenna's Flex Appeal | Winter X-Games X - Day 2 Part 1 | | | X Games11 Classic Skateboard | | Evian Masters Day 3 | | | | Sportscenter Asia | Classic Boxing | | Classic Boxing | | Sportscenter Asia |
| ETC | | America's Next Top Model 5 | | Change of Heart | Eliminidate | Blind Date | Fifth Wheel | Seinfeld | Ambush Makeover | The Tyra Banks Show | | Veronica Mars 2 | | Beauty And The Geek 2 | | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno | |
| ETC 2nd Avenue | | Starting Over | | The Maury Povich Show | | The Jerry Springer Show | | Dr. Phil | | NBC Nightly News | The Inside Edition | The Ellen (De-Generes) Show | | Wheel Of Fortune | Jeopardy | Cold Turkey 2 | | NBC Nightly News | The Inside Edition |
| EWTN | St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman | Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus | Faith In Motion | Truth In The Heart | Rosary With Mother Angelica | EWTN Gallery | Suffering And The Love Of God | EWTN Catholic Classic | The Church & The Poor: Building Bridges | Mother Angelica Live Classics | | Daily Mass | | Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus | One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood | Parable | Rome Reports | Special Programming | |
| Fox News | | On The Record With Greta Van Susteren | | The O'Reilly Factor | | Your World With Neil Cavuto | | Fox & Friends | | | | | | Fox News Live | | | | | |
| GMA 7 | Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat | Now and Forever (3:15PM) | Ang Panbabago (3:45PM) | | Saiyuki | Dragonball Z | Jewel In The Palace | 24 Oras | | Captain Barbell (7:10PM) | | Majika | | I Luv NY (8:50PM) | Love Of The Condor Heroes | Nuts Entertainment | | | Saksi |
| Hallmark Channel | | | | Judging Amy | | Sue Thomas F.B. Eye II | | McLeod's Daughters | | Strong Medicine | | Hustle | | Judging Amy | | Heart Of A Stranger | | | |
| HBO | | | For Keeps? (3:45PM) | | | | Napoleon Dynamite | | | The Chronicles Of Riddick | | | | Huff 05: Flashpants | | Huff 06: Is She Dead? (9:55PM) | | Huff 07: That Cabin | Layer Cake (11:45PM) |
| Hero TV | Gosaurer | Gundam Seed | Duel Masters | Super Gals | Mamo de Pon | Sugar The Snow Fairy | Naruto | Inuyasha | Saiyuki Reload | Full Metal Panic | Yakitate! Japan | Mr. Ajikko | Transformers Armada | Yu-Gi-Oh GX | B-Daman Bakugaiden | Beyblade G-Revolution | Gosaurer | Gundam Seed | Naruto |
| IBC 13 | | EZ Shop | | | | Home Shopping Network | IBC Express Balita | EBC Earth Files | | NYC Debates | | EBC Earth Files | | Travel Philippines | Japan Video Topics/ Arts | Up Close And Personal | IBC News Tonite | | |
| JackTV | | Bottomline | | Afterburn | | Cheat | Filter | Afterburn | | Mad TV | | That 70s Show | Arrested Development | Last Comic Standing | | The Daily Show With Jon Stewart | Chappelle's Show | The Late Show David Letterman | |
| Lifestyle Network | | 30 Minute Meals | Wolfgang Puck | Sweet Dreams | Smart Solutions | Sensible Chic | DIY: Crafts | Iron Chef America | | My Country, My Kitchen | E! Entertainment Special | | Living Space | Martha | | Fine Living Special | | Intimate Portrait | |
| MTV Philippines | | Homewrecker | Room Raiders | | MTV Hits | | | | | Get Spotted | | TRL | | Homewrecker | Room Raiders | | Homecoming | | |
| MYX | | Rock MYX | My MYX | Mellow MYX | Urban MYX | Take 5 | MYXILOG | MYX Firsts | Star MYX | OPM MYX | Pop MYX | MYX Daily Top Ten | | MYX Live! | | Band Of The Run | My MYX | MYX Backtrax | MYXILOG |
| National Geographic | Wild Orphans | National Geographic Specials | | Bug Attack: Aggression | | Planet Wild | Amazing Moments | Top 5 - Predators | | Wow! Wild: Giants Of Denali | | About Asia | | Mega Speed Week | | Seconds From Disaster: Skywalk Collapse | | Inside 9/11 Countdown to Terror | |
| NBN | | Teledyaryo Alas-Tres | | Teledyaryo Sports Atbp. | | | Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila? | Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo | | Tinig ng Bayan (Live) | | | | Teledyaryo Final Edition | | | | Bantay OCW With Susan K | |
| Net 25 | INC Chronicles (Filipino) | In Focus | Euromaxx | Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan | | Ang Pagbubuyag | | News Beat (Live) | | OpenLine Live | Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay | Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan | | Ang Tamang Daan | | World Report | In Focus | DWTV Journal News | Tomorrow Today |
| Nickelodeon | Chalkzone | Hey Arnold! | SpongeBob SquarePants | Rocket Power | Four Eyes/ Upside Down Show/ Rugrats Preschool Daze/ ChalkZone Big Blow Up | SpongeBob SquarePants/ Fight On Top | My Life As A Teenage Robot | All Grown Up | The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron | The Fairly Odd Parents | Drake & Josh | Unfabulous | Romeo | Naturally Sadie | SpongeBob SquarePants | As Told By Ginger | The Fairly Odd Parents | My Dad The Rock Star | |
| PBO | | | Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon | | | | Magdalena Town Homes | | | | Abrakadabra | | | | Mga Batang City Jail | | | | She Walks By Night |
| Qtv | Goodluck | Shaman King | Outlaw Star | Galaxy Angel | MMS (My Music Station) | | Moms | | Phoenix | Irene | Fireworks | Damo | Project 11 | Now Na! | | News On Q | Balikbayan | | Irene |
| RPN 9 | TV Shopping | | | | Kapatid Show | RPN Aksyon News | | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | Iron Chef | | Three Wishes | | Extreme Make-Over | | Newswatch Now | Cargo For Truth | | Kerygma |
| SBN 21 | | | | | | | | Sony Music Video | | | | Oras Ng Himala | | Oras ng Katotohanan | | Sony Music Video | | Sony Music Video | |
| Solar Sports | | Billiards | | | | | | | | Sagupaan | WNBA Action | Beach Volleyball FIVB Men's-Norway | | World Pool 2006 Masters | | Solar Sports Desk | NBA Access | World Table Tennis: SF Timo Boll vs. L. Wang | |
| Sports Plus | | | Inside the PGA | Raceworld | | Party Poker.com World Open 2005 | | | | NASCAR Nextel Cup Weekend Watkins Glen | | | | | | | Inside the PGA | BD Mexican Riviera | Wild Side Boston |
| Star Movies | | | | Far From Home: The Adventures Of Yellow Dog | | Rookie Of The Year (5:15PM) | | | | Flight Of The Phoenix | | | | De-Lovely | | | | The Long Weekend (11:15PM) | |
| Star World | | The Bold & The Beautiful | | General Hospital | | Desperate Housewives | | The Simpsons | Malcolm In The Middle | Star News Asia | Seinfeld | Rockstar: Supernova | | Boston Legal (9:10PM) | | The Apprentice | | Seinfeld | Rockstar: Supernova |
| Studio 23 | | | | | | | | Spirits | Blog | Wazzup Wazzup | CSI Season 5 | | 24 Season 4 (8:20PM) | It's A Guy Thing (9:10PM) | | News Central | Oprah | | Just Shoot Me |

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

# ROUNDUP

## 'Final Cut'

"WHO MAKES THE final cut?" is the theme of a new reality TV show premiering on Aug.19, 11 p.m. on QTV.

"The Final Cut: The Next David Salon's Creative Stylist"—a joint venture of David Salon Inc. and Beginnings at Twenty Plus Inc.—puts together aspiring hair stylists and make-up artists in a challenge with P100,000 at stake.

The grand winner will be named David Salon's Creative Stylist and will win a trip to Milan, Italy, to represent the Philippines at the World Hairdressing Championship in November.

## 'Probe'

THIS WEEKEND, "Probe" reporter Pinky Webb steps out of the ABS-CBN newsroom and into the eight-kilometer extended danger zone in Albay to experience first hand life near an active volcano.

Pinky joins Tatay Roberto Avellano and his family as they stay in their hut to be close to their small farm, and then as they move away from Mount Mayon to an evacuation center.

The episode airs at 11 tonight on ABS-CBN.

## 'Subtext'

KOINÉ ONE ACTS stages "Subtext," a Palanca award-winning play on text messaging, communication, hermeneutics and relationships, on Sept. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m.

The cast includes Roence Santos, Joy Alano, Chona Fernando, Bev Sevilleno, Onay Sales, Micki Olaguer, Karl Santinitigan, Oz Go, Sweet Cimafranca, Ralph Lim, Burn Melendres, Ren Robles, Flavio Tinio, and Eric Santos.

Call 410-4485.

## Mobile films

DISCOVERY NETworks Asia and Nokia have named the Philippines' 10 semifinalists to the Mobile Filmmakers 2006 Awards: Diadema Martinez; Eric T. Ras; Jacobo B. Nepomuceno; Jasmin Celestina Bernardino; Joel Anthony Cardenas; Manuel Franklin Coloma; Ponciano Subillaga Tabor; Reymaldo De Guzman; Roel J. Gonzaga; and Vernon Villapando.

A panel of judges from Discovery and Nokia will select the best two clips that will represent the Philippines at the regional workshop in Singapore.

## For Clint

BEVERLY Hills—Academy Award winner Clint Eastwood has received a special honor from the Motion Picture & Television Fund for his contributions to the Western genre.

Eastwood, 76, an Oscar winner for directing "Unforgiven," was presented the Founder's Award during the group's 24th annual Golden Boot Awards held Saturday.

Morgan Freeman presented the award to Eastwood. *AP*

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P250 -Matinee (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -After 5 pm (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -All screenings (Fri- Sun)
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4
5 SUKOB
6 KUBRADOR
PREMIERE CINEMA
OH MY GHOST
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
CINEMA 2
AMERICAN DREAMZ

**SM CITY SOUTHMALL** 806-6888
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 SUKOB
3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 MORTUARY
5 CLICK
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 STORMBREAKER
8 OH MY GHOST
9 KUBRADOR

**SM CITY BICUTAN** 776-3055
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

**SM MEGACINEMA** 633-1901
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 CLICK
5 MIAMI VICE
6 STORMBREAKER
7 MORTUARY
8 KUBRADOR
9 OH MY GHOST
10 SUKOB
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW** 935-0749
1 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 MIAMI VICE
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 ANT BULLY
9 SUKOB
10 STORMBREAKER
11 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12 AMERICAN DREAMZ

**SM CITY STA. MESA** 716-1416
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 OH MY GHOST
5 SUKOB
6 MORTUARY
7 MIAMI VICE
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
9 AMERICAN DREAMZ
10 STORMBREAKER

**SM CITY SAN LAZARO** 786-2488
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 CLICK
4 MORTUARY
5 SUKOB
6 OH MY GHOST

**SM NORTH EDSA** 929-5452
THE BLOCK
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
3 CLICK
4 STORMBREAKER
5 SUKOB
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 MIAMI VICE
8 OH MY GHOST
9 KUBRADOR
10 MORTUARY
11 CLICK
12 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

**SM CITY MANILA** 523-9240
1 MORTUARY
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 STORMBREAKER
4 CLICK
5 MIAMI VICE
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 KUBRADOR
8 AMERICAN DREAMZ
9 SUKOB
10 MIAMI VICE
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 OH MY GHOST

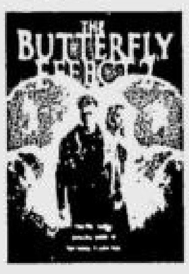
**SM CITY DASMARINAS** (046)4323201-04
1 MIAMI VICE
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

**SM VALENZUELA** 293-3917
1 MIAMI VICE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST

**SM CITY SUCAT** 829-4975
1 OH MY GHOST
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

movietime — FRESH NEW MOVIES

AMERICAN DREAMZ


BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

KUBRADOR

OH MY GHOST!

MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

NOW SHOWING

**SM CITY BAGUIO** (074)6197838-39
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK
3 OH MY GHOST
4 SUKOB

**SM CITY MARILAO** (044)9332013-17
1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY

**SM CITY BACOOR** (046)417-3868
1 MIAMI VICE
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SUKOB
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
6 OH MY GHOST
7 CLICK
8 STORMBREAKER

LUZON

**SM CITY BATANGAS** 885-6401-04
1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 ANT BULLY
4 SUKOB

**SM CITY LUCENA** (042)7108977-80
1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 ANT BULLY

**SM CITY CLARK** (045)625-5844-45
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 CLICK
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 OH MY GHOST
6 SUKOB

**SM CITY PAMPANGA** (045)9637681-85
1 SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 STORMBREAKER
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 OH MY GHOST

**SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO** (046)474-3160
1 OH MY GHOST
2 STORMBREAKER
3 ANT BULLY
4 CLICK

**SM CITY STA. ROSA** (049)5341265-66
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 SUKOB

**SM CITY CEBU** (032)231-3876
1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 MIAMI VICE
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 OH MY GHOST
7 SUKOB
8 MIAMI VICE

VISAYAS
MINDANAO

**SM CITY ILOILO** (033)3209422
1 THE BREAK-UP
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 TAMARA
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 RESERVED
8 JUST MY LUCK

**SM CITY DAVAO** (082)2976998
1 MIAMI VICE
2 SUKOB
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 OH MY GHOST
5 CLICK
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

**SM CITY CAGAYAN** (088)859-2884
1 THE BREAK-UP
2 SUKOB
3 OH MY GHOST
4 CLICK

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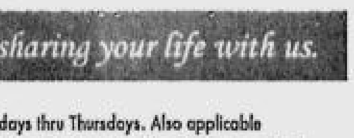

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1 MIAMI VICE • THX
2 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 MORTUARY
5 OH MY GHOST
6 AMERICAN DREAMZ
7 CLICK
8 STORMBREAKER
9 SUKOB
10 THE ANT BULLY

**ERMITA** 536-7809 to 12
1 OH MY GHOST
2 MIAMI VICE
SUKOB
3 MORTUARY
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 CLICK

**METRO EAST** 682-8193 / 682-8199
1 MIAMI VICE
2 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 STORMBREAKER
4 SUKOB
5 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
6 MORTUARY
7 CLICK
8 OH MY GHOST

**NOVALICHES** 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 CLCIK
2 MORTUARY
3 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 OH MY GHOST

**CITISQUARE MALABON** 288-2575
1 OH MY GHOST
2 WOLF CREEK
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

**PIONEER** 687-5378
1 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 MORTUARY
4 OH MY GHOST

"MIAMI VICE" TRIVIA PROMO

Kindly answer all questions completely.
Fill in the missing letters to complete the right answer

1. The creator of the Miami Vice TV Series.
M _ CH _ EL M _ NN
2. Plays the role of Sonny Crockett in the Miami Vice movie.
_ OL _ N FA _ R _ LL
3. Jamie Foxx plays this character in the movie.
R _ CA _ D _ T _ _ BS
4. In the TV Series, who played the part of Caitlin, the woman Sonny Crockett marries?
SH _ EN _ E _ STO _
5. Miami is in what US State?
FL _ R _ DA

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4 OH MY GHOST

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1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 CLICK

**DASMARIÑAS** (046) 852-2126 / (046) 416-4332
1 OH MY GHOST
2 CLICK
3 SUKOBWOLF CREEK
4 SUKOB

**ANGELES** (045) 892-2348
1 OH MY GHOST
2 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP

**IMUS** (046) 875-3838 / (046) 471-8188
1 OH MY GHOST
2 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 MIAMI VICE
4 CLICK

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2 THE BREAK-UP
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST
5 CLICK
6 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

**BACOLOD** (034) 441-0453 / (034) 441-0459
1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 TAMARA
5 SUKOB
6 THE BREAK-UP

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3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK

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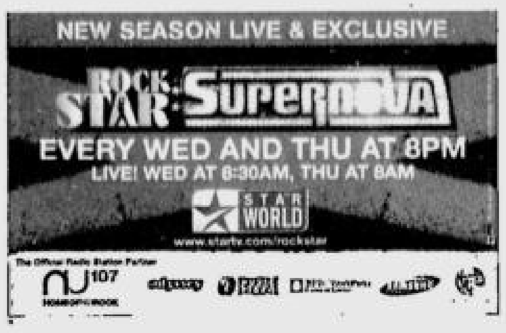
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## OPENING TODAY

### Kubrador

**Stars Gina Pareño, Fonz Desa, Soliman Cruz, Johnny Manahan**

**Directed by Jeffrey Jeturian**

Amy, the jueteng bet collector from Manila's slums played by Pareño, has gone places. After winning the FIPRESCI prize at the Moscow Film Festival and sweeping the OSIAN Cine Fan Festival in New Delhi, the film has been invited to 12 more festivals, including Toronto, Pusan, London and Sao Paolo. International critics and festival directors are raving about this digital film from the same team behind "Minsan Pa." Christian Razukas of the Hawaii Film Fest comments: "The script is amazing and Gina is incredible." Italo Spinelli of the Asiaticafilmmediale in Rome agrees: "It's well-made. Superb pacing and acting." French critic Max Tessier, a member of the FIPRESCI jury in New Delhi, adds: "It's low-budget, but done with great skill." Now showing at SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, Manila, North Edsa and Southmall, Glorietta 4, Market Market, Robinsons Galleria and Ermita, Festival Mall, Gateway Cubao, and Cinerama Recto.

GINA Pareño in "Kubrador"

### Oh My Ghost!

**Stars Rufa Mae Quinto, Marvin Agustin, Paolo Contis, Carlos Agassi, Uma Khouny**

**Directed by Tony Y. Reyes**

Here's a new genre: horror comedy. Quinto plays a victim of attempted rape who comes back as a ghost to stalk and punish her tormentors (Khouny, Agassi, Contis). The same box-office director behind the "Enteng Kabisote" franchise tries to wring humor out of this ghastly scenario. "It's different from my other comedy films because of the horror and special effects," Rufa Mae tells INQUIRER Entertainment. "Our director has lots of funny ideas and our producer Orly Ilacad gave us full support. Post-production was done in Hong Kong." She says she also enjoyed working with her co-stars—especially Marvin, whom she last worked with in "Super B" in 2002. "They're all good in comedy," she gushed, "and we have lots of guests."

STEPHANIE Patton in "Mortuary"

### Mortuary

**Stars Dan Byrd, Stephanie Patton, Alexandra Adi, Denise Crosby**

**Directed by Tobe Hooper**

The latest screamfest from horror master Hooper follows the Doyle family who has just moved into a decrepit, long-abandoned funeral home in a sleepy town in California. Best known for "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and "Toolbox Murders," the director has been hailed by Wes Craven for "changing the horror genre forever" on the TV special "The Anatomy of Horror." A review on houseofhorrors.com describes a screening: "There were moments that shot everyone out of their seats … The ending was merciless, a good scare." Campblood.org gave it four out of five stars: "unlike anything else Hooper has ever delivered … a zany, slime-soaked roller-coaster ride of spook thrills and family comedy."

### My Super Ex-Girlfriend

**Stars Uma Thurman, Luke Wilson, Anna Faris, Wanda Sykes**

**Directed by Ivan Reitman**

A man dumps his mousy girlfriend after uncovering her secret identity as G-Girl, a "neurotic and needy" superheroine who protects New Yorkers from all sorts of mayhem. Peter Travers of Rolling Stone relates that the script, "a comic spin on 'Fatal Attraction,' is stuck with one joke stretched so thin, it's anorexic." Bruce Westbrook of the Houston Chronicle calls it a "choice chunk of kryptonite … [that] skewers such power fantasies on a tasty kebab of awkward domesticity." Chris Vognar of the Dallas Morning News assesses: "[It's] modest entertainment … [that's] thinner than its star Uma. A fun twist on the male libido, but don't expect to ponder its gender implications on the way out of the theater."

LUKE Wilson and Uma Thurman in "My Super Ex-Girlfriend"

### Freedomland

**Stars Julianne Moore, Samuel L. Jackson, Edie Falco, William Forsythe**

**Directed by Joe Roth**

This drama/mystery/thriller is an adaptation of Richard Price's 1998 novel. A white woman (Moore) claims she was car-jacked, and her four-year-old son abducted by a black man. Carina Chocano of Los Angeles Times opines that the film "purports to be a social study of racial tensions straining under the weight of a highly publicized tragedy. But this angle remains relegated to the sidelines." Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly thinks "It's strenuous and joyless … a movie that appears to have been made in the shadow of 'Crash.' It has a similar didactic idealism. Watchable as it is, it comes to very little because it keeps showing the seams of its good intentions." Exclusively at Ayala Cinemas.

HUGH Grant and Mandy Moore in "American Dreamz"

### American Dreamz

**Stars Hugh Grant, Dennis Quaid, Mandy Moore, Willem Dafoe**

**Directed by Paul Weitz**

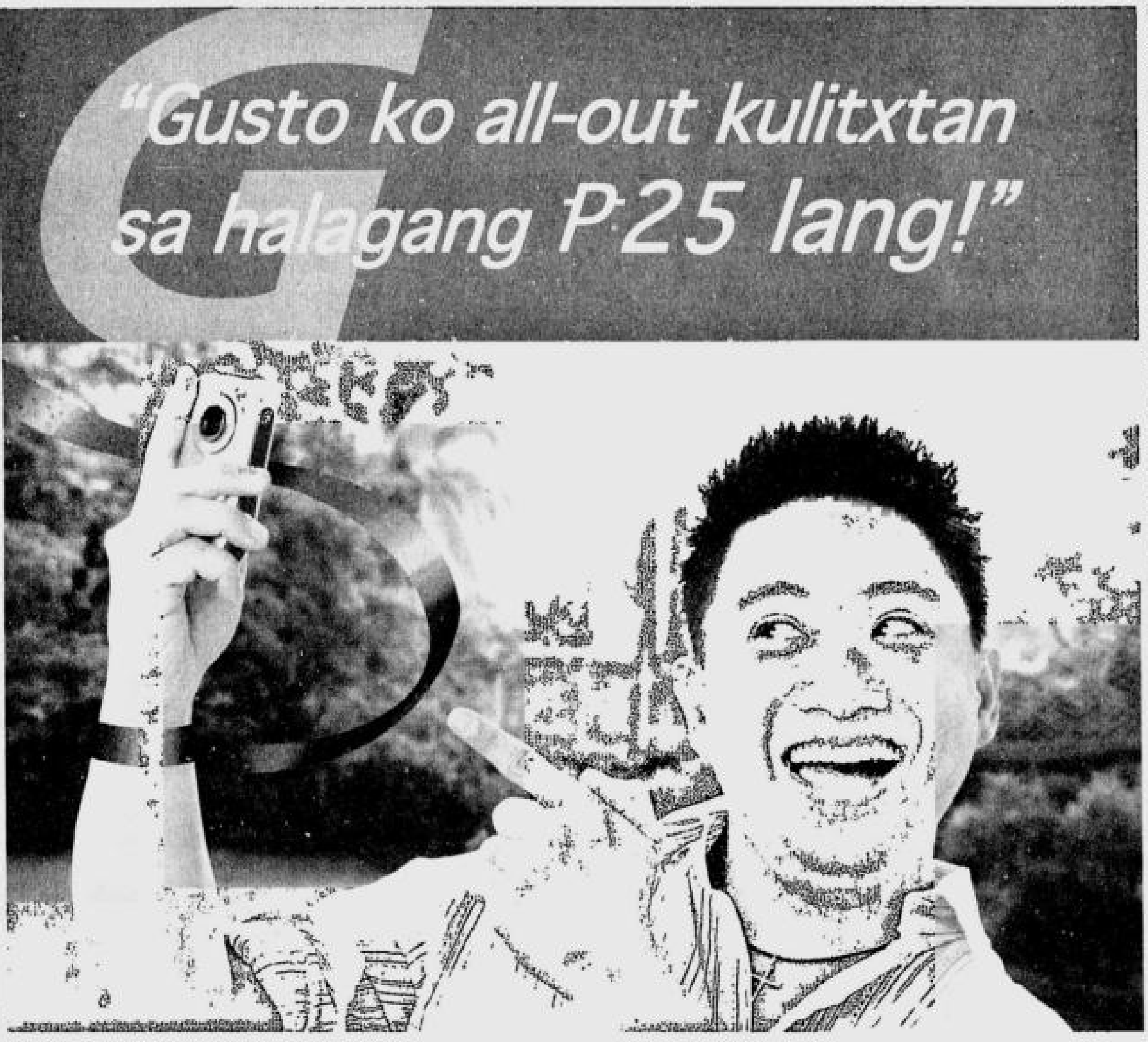
Politics and show biz are spoofed when a dim-witted US president guests as a judge on a TV talent show, in which one of the contestants is a "sleeper terrorist." Ty Burr of the Boston Globe says it's "smart, spring-loaded with pop-culture references and far too good-natured to do any lasting change … an effervescent farce [that] plays like the Cartoon Network version of Robert Altman's 'Nashville.'" John Defore of Hollywood Reporter complains that it's "flimsy and insufficiently funny … [with] one-dimensional characters to match the show's vapidity." Carol Cling of Las Vegas Review-Journal states: "It goes after its target like a clueless klutz oblivious to the fact that the ticking bomb he's carrying is about to blow up in his face."

### The Butterfly Effect 2

**Stars Eric Lively, Erica Durance, JR Bourne, Malcolm Stewart**

**Directed by John R. Leonetti**

This sequel to the 2004 hit follows a different character who, like the hero played by Ashton Kutcher in the original, "also travels through time and alters events in his past that result in unexpected consequences in the present." The original earned $58 million at the US tills. Will the sequel be a hit as well? The director's most famous movie is "Mortal Kombat: Annihilation," which rated 2.9 on IMDb.com, according to slashfilm.com. The same Internet report pointed out that the sequel's lead actress is Erica Durance, best known "for her horrible portrayal as Lois Lane on 'Smallville.' Durance is likely to make Kutcher's performance look good." Sounds bad.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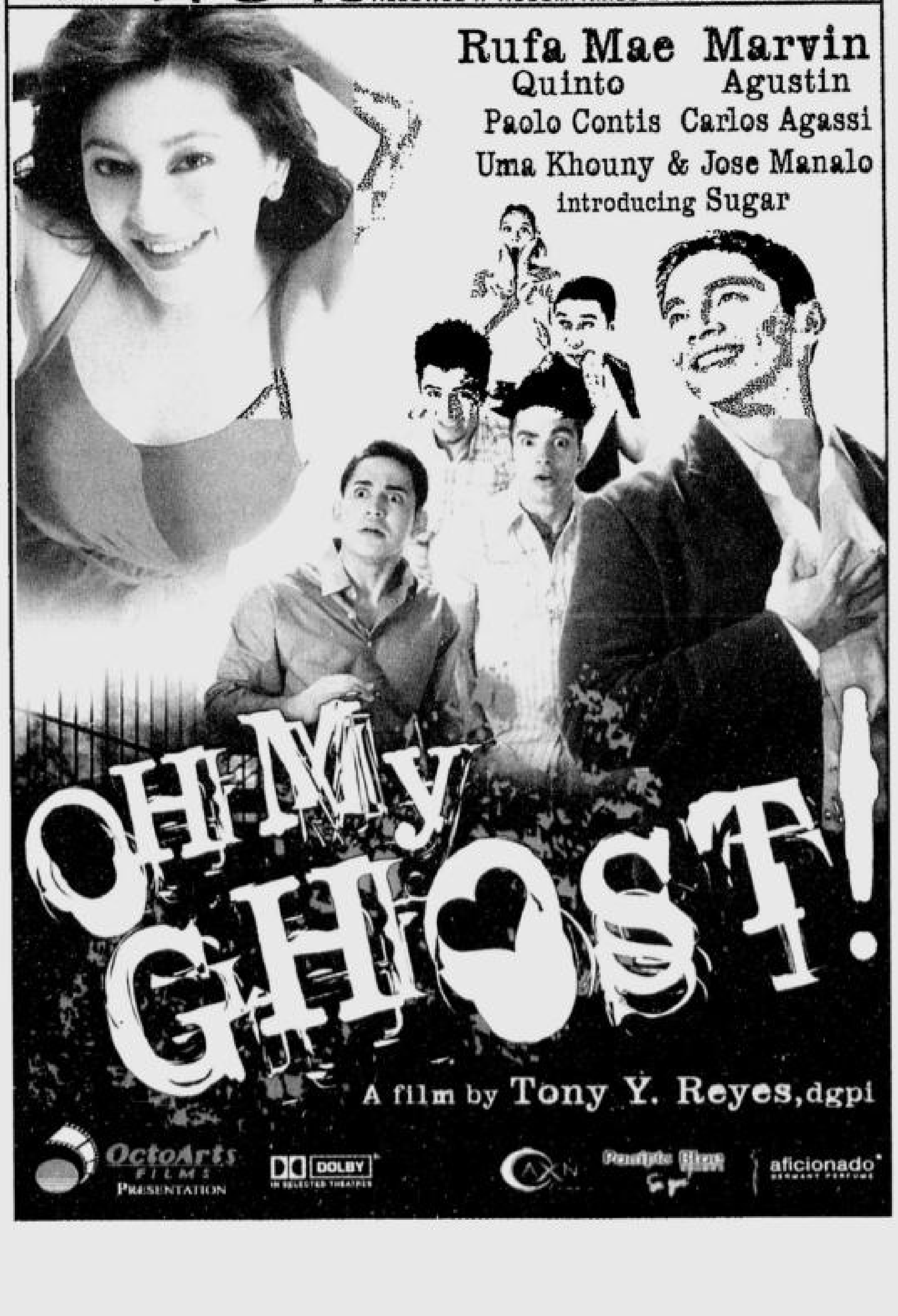

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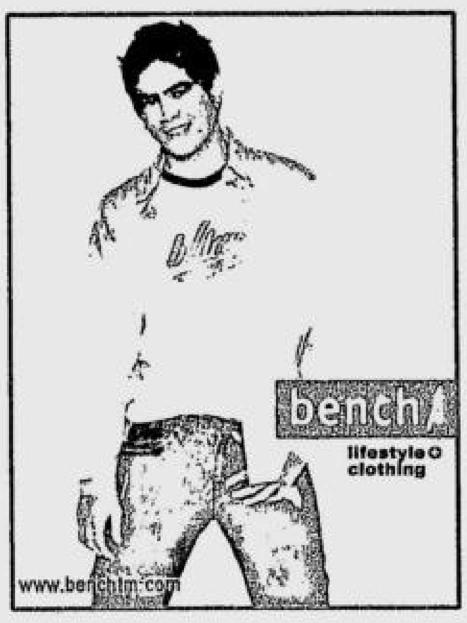
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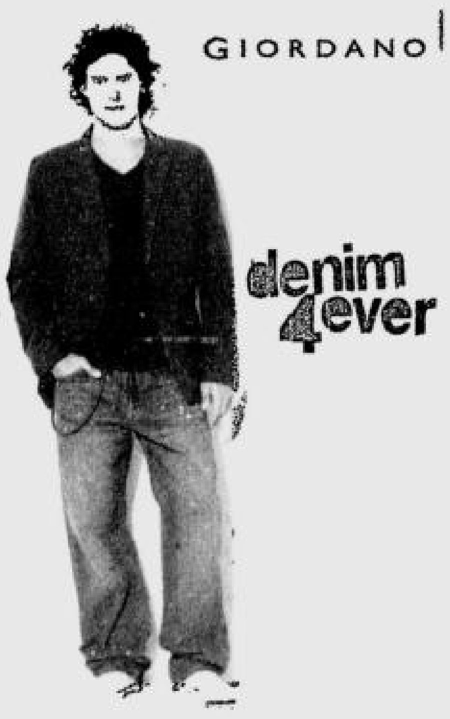
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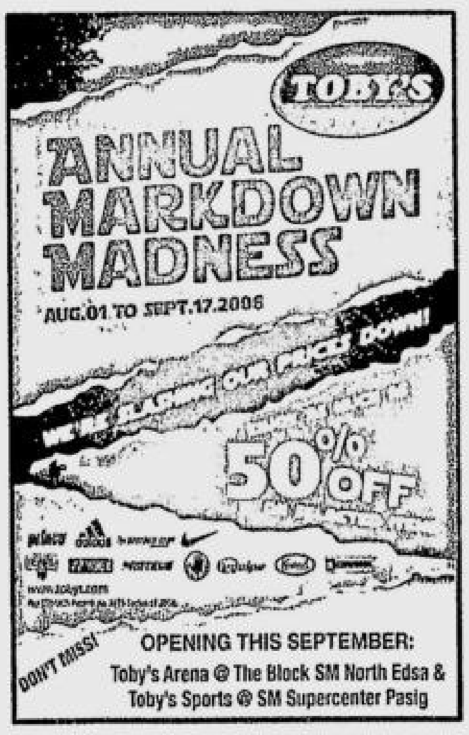
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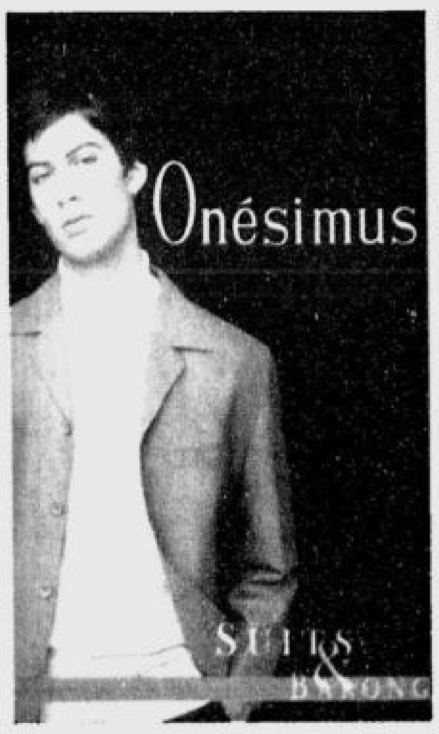
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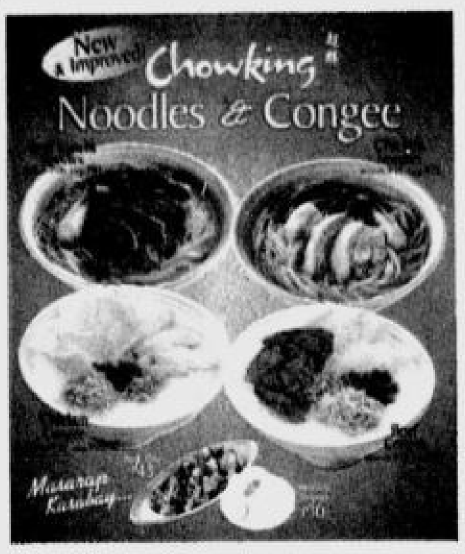
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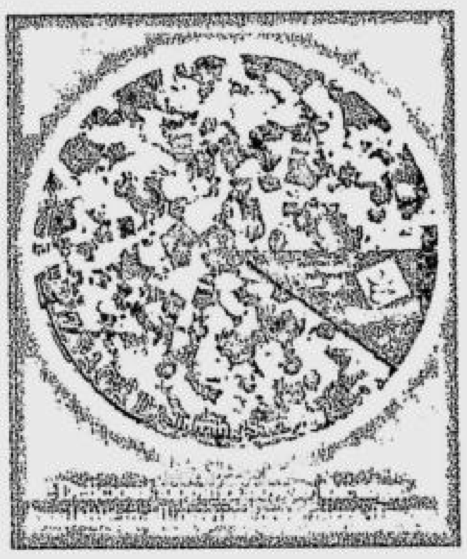

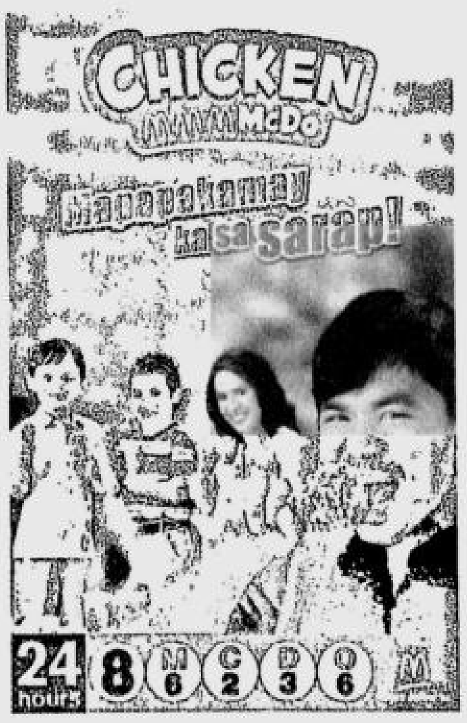
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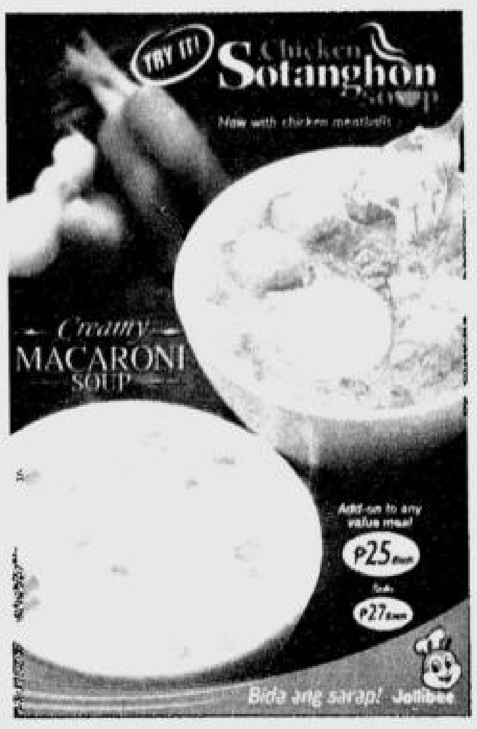
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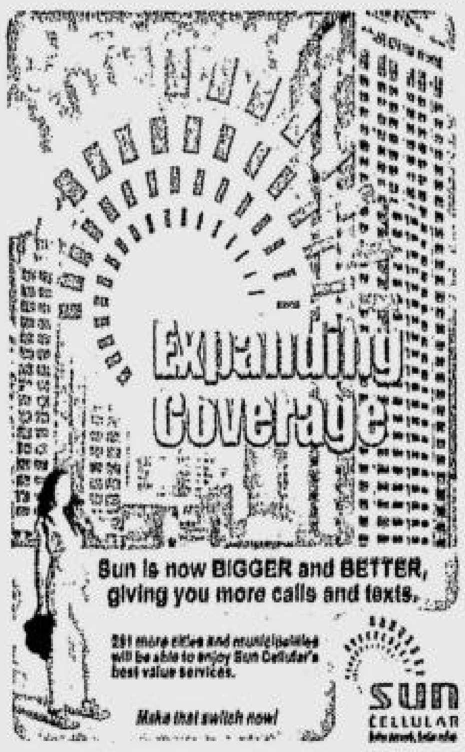
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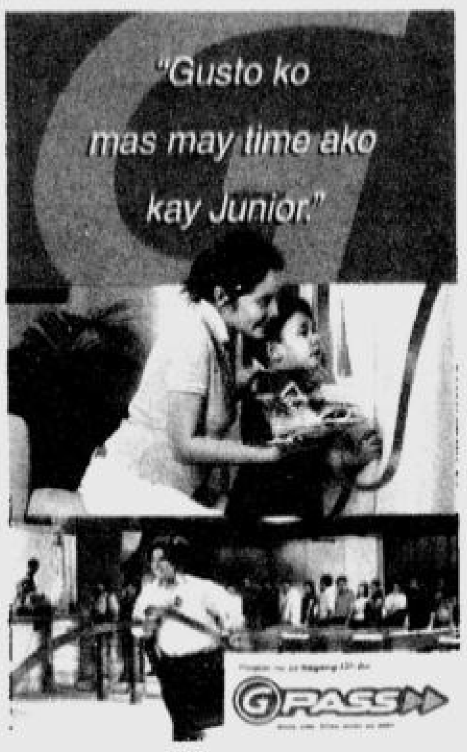
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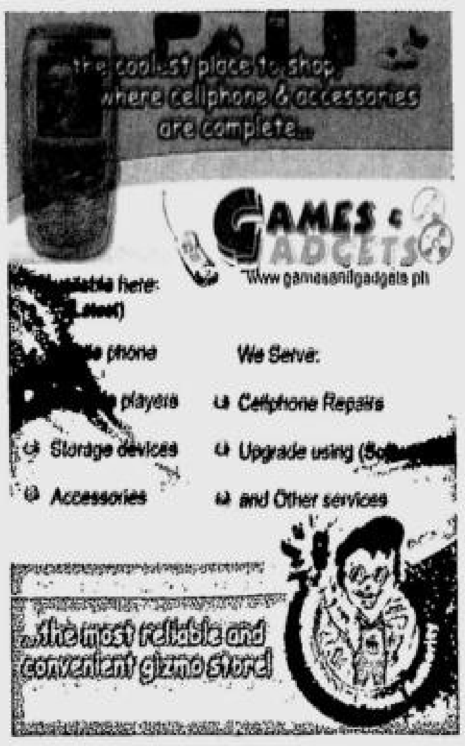
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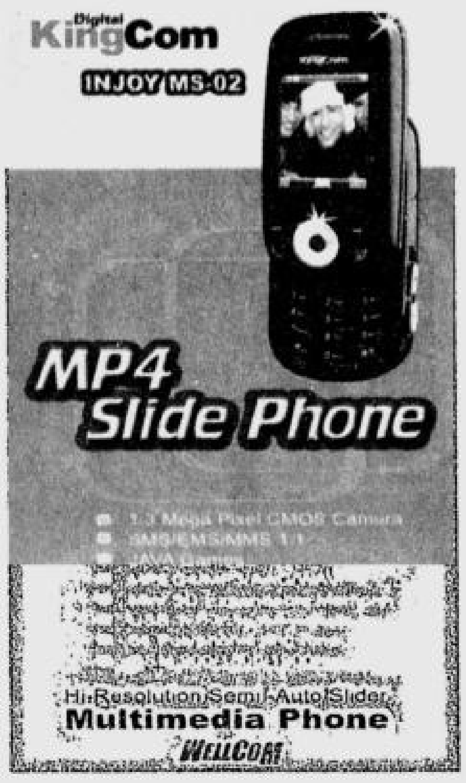
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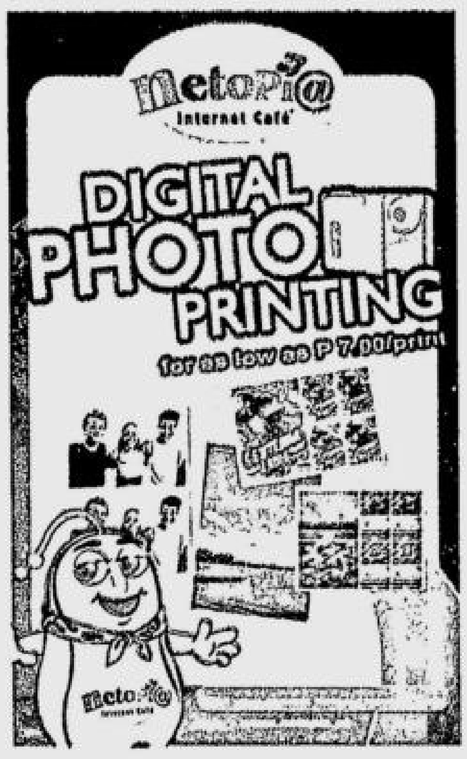
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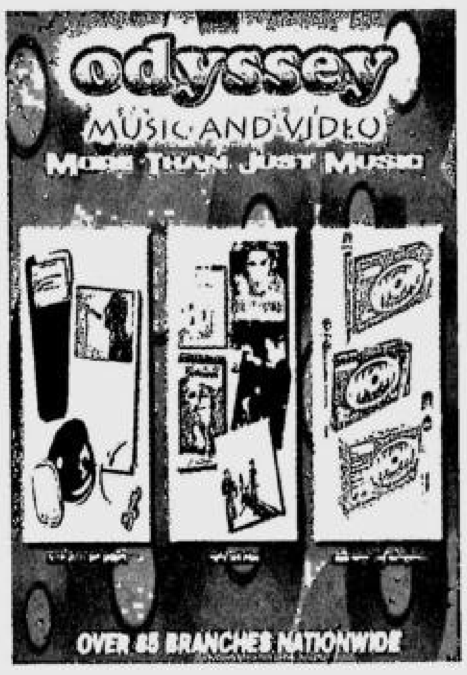
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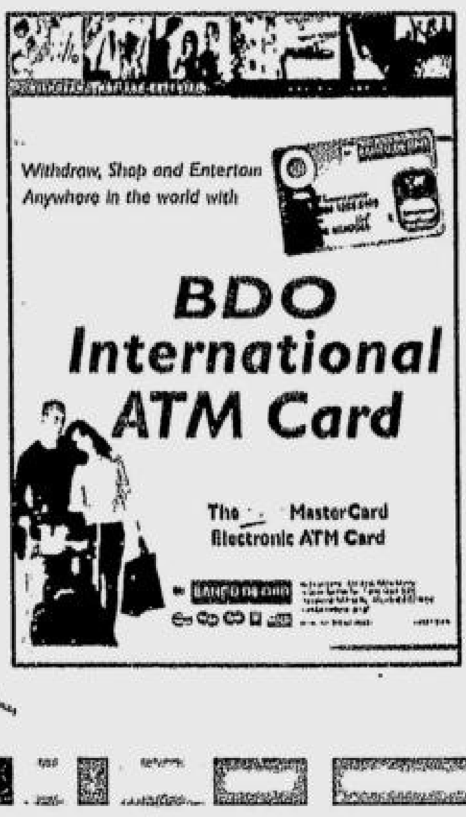
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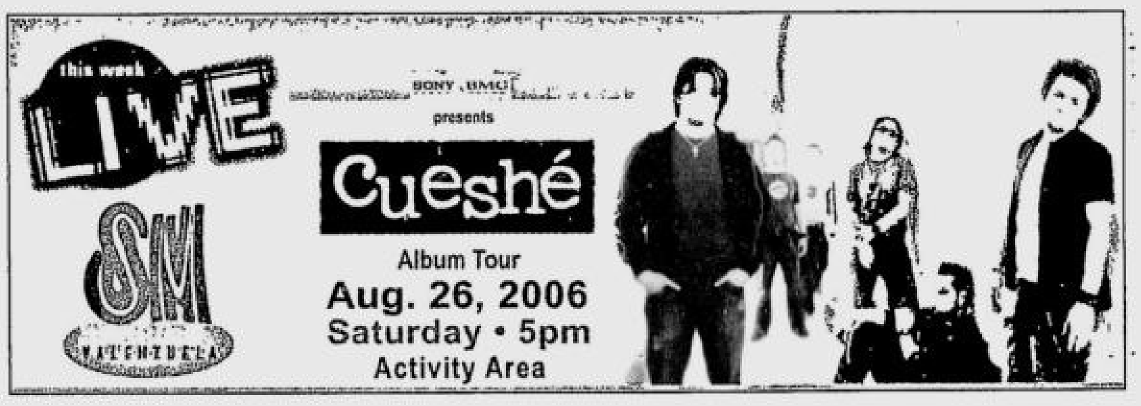
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**METRO** / A19

### Doctor in diaper death case charged with infanticide

**BUSINESS** / B1

### 7-month BOP surplus rises to $2.17B due to strong exports, OFW remittances

**WORLD** / A22

### As Mideast truce holds, Israel's wartime solidarity is shattered

**NEWS** / A3

### SC affirms ruling on P800-M refund to Meralco consumers

### OFW flees Lebanon wearing her 'luggage'

MAS MALAKI YAN KUNG MAY PASALUBONG!

**By Volt Contreras**

SHE KNEW EARLY ON that carrying any bag would give away her escape plan—but not having an unusually large "bust."

Precy Puerto sneaked

OFW FLEES A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, August 17, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 250 P18 website: www.inq7.net

### Senate probing nursing leak told of Swiss junket

**By TJ Burgonio**

ALLEGATIONS THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE Philippine Nurses Association traveled with two key officials of the Board of Nursing (BON) to Switzerland to attend a convention and paid for their trip surfaced yesterday at the Senate inquiry into the alleged leakage at the recent nursing board exams.

An examinee submitted a statement to the BON,

SENATE/ A7

# House kills impeach bid

## GMA allies say case DOA, only a cadaver

**By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza**

IN ANOTHER KILLING, President Macapagal-Arroyo's dominant allies threw out yesterday a second attempt to unseat her in two years. The House committee on justice voted 56-24 to trash the impeachment complaint backed by civil society.

"We have presented our case in its complete form, but you have chosen not to hear the case," an exasperated House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said, conceding defeat.

The vote came an hour after opposition supporters heckled administration allies out of the session hall in the midst of intense debates on whether the complaint was sufficient in substance to bring it to trial in the Senate.

A formal report on the committee hearing was expected to be prepared and submitted to a plenary that was likely to affirm the committee decision in another vote on either Monday or Tuesday.

Tension flared shortly after the summation of arguments by Escudero and Deputy Majority Leader Edcel Lagman at the panel hearing on substance that began on Tuesday and continued through last night.

Summing up for the majority, Lagman had declared that the impeachment complaint was not being killed by the committee. "It was already dead on arrival. What was brought before the committee on justice was a cadaver of a complaint."

He said the debate on whether

HOUSE/ A9

## Hold Petron accountable for oil spill, gov't asked

**By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**
*PDI Southern Luzon*
**and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.**
**and Carla P. Gomez**
*Inquirer Visayas*

GREENPEACE, AN INTERNATIONAL environmentalist group, asked the government to hold Petron Corp. and its partners accountable for damage to marine and coastal ecosystems caused by the oil spill off Guimaras Island.

"The vessel that sank in Guimaras Strait in the Philippines is an ecological time bomb that may cause long-term and possibly permanent damage to the environment and livelihoods of people," Greenpeace Southeast Asia said in a statement.

The group said the oil spill could be even larger than the Semirara oil spill last year and could threaten at least three marine reserves in the Visayas.

Officials have called for foreign assistance to contain the spill.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who convened the National Disaster Coordinating Council yesterday, instructed all agencies involved to tap foreign assistance if needed, said Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

"This is a major disaster … We will see to it that the latest available technology will be available," Reyes said at a press conference in Jordan, capital town of Guimaras.

HOLD PETRON/ A6

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**DANGEROUS CROSSING**
As precarious as the UN truce between Israel and Hezbollah still holding on its third day, this bus transporting refugees back to southern Lebanon is crossing a damaged bridge as the UN plan for a peacekeeping force that has been beefed up from 2,000 to 15,000 troops gets underway. REUTERS

## Palace, PNP: What about killings by NPA?

**By Christian V. Esguerra and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

MALACAÑANG APPEARS TO BE far from embarrassed.

Amnesty International (AI) said on Tuesday that it should be a "deep embarrassment" to the government that Filipinos could not "freely exercise their rights of political expression and association."

In a report, the London-based human rights group said the climate of impunity in the Philippines had worsened this year—with 51 extrajudicial killings reported in the first semester compared to 66 in the entire 2005—mainly due to Ms Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency in February, the arrest and threatened arrest of militant party-list lawmakers, and the intensified campaign against communist insurgents.

It also said security forces appeared to have been involved in

PALACE/ A8

## Aussie church blames gov't for 'serial' killings

**By Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes**
*Inquirer Central Luzon*
**and Luige A. del Puerto** *in Manila*

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA yesterday said the Philippine government gave at least tacit approval for the murder of 14 members of the Protestant denomination, apparently by security forces, even as another leftist activist has been added to the lengthening death list, with the fatal shooting of a leader of a militant fisherfolk alliance in his house in Obando town.

Orlando Rivera, 40, was attacked by four men wearing ski masks and armed with .45 cal. pistols at 1 a.m. in Barangay Binuangan. He died of three bullet wounds, said Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz.

Binuangan is a small fishing village saturated by soldiers and militiamen under the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion, according to Pamalakaya's Bulacan chapter.

The murder of Rivera occurred a day after Amnesty International released a report saying that the unabated political killings should be a source of "deep embarrassment" to the Philippine government *(Related story on this page)*.

Per the INQUIRER tally, Rivera was the 83rd such victim in Central Luzon since 2005.

AUSSIE/ A8

## Hunt for Reds kills night life in San Jose

**By Anselmo Roque**
*Inquirer Central Luzon*

CABANATUAN CITY—NIGHT LIFE is virtually dead in San Jose City as the military continues to hunt communist rebels in its villages.

Local bars and entertainment centers, vendors selling their wares at night, and tricycle drivers are hurting from poor business as only a few people go out at night.

"The night spots have not been prohibited to open their business by the city government or by the military," said Guian Carlo Bumanlag, a member of the San Jose City legal staff. "But the usual customers are not coming."

Neither are people dissuaded from going out at night but they seem afraid of being questioned by soldiers when they come home late, he said.

Among those complaining to city officials are owners and workers of entertainment centers.

Even *balut* (boiled duck egg), barbecue and cigarette vendors are griping about poor sales, Bumanlag said. Owners of stores selling liquor also reported low sales since the military operations began in the city on Aug. 1.

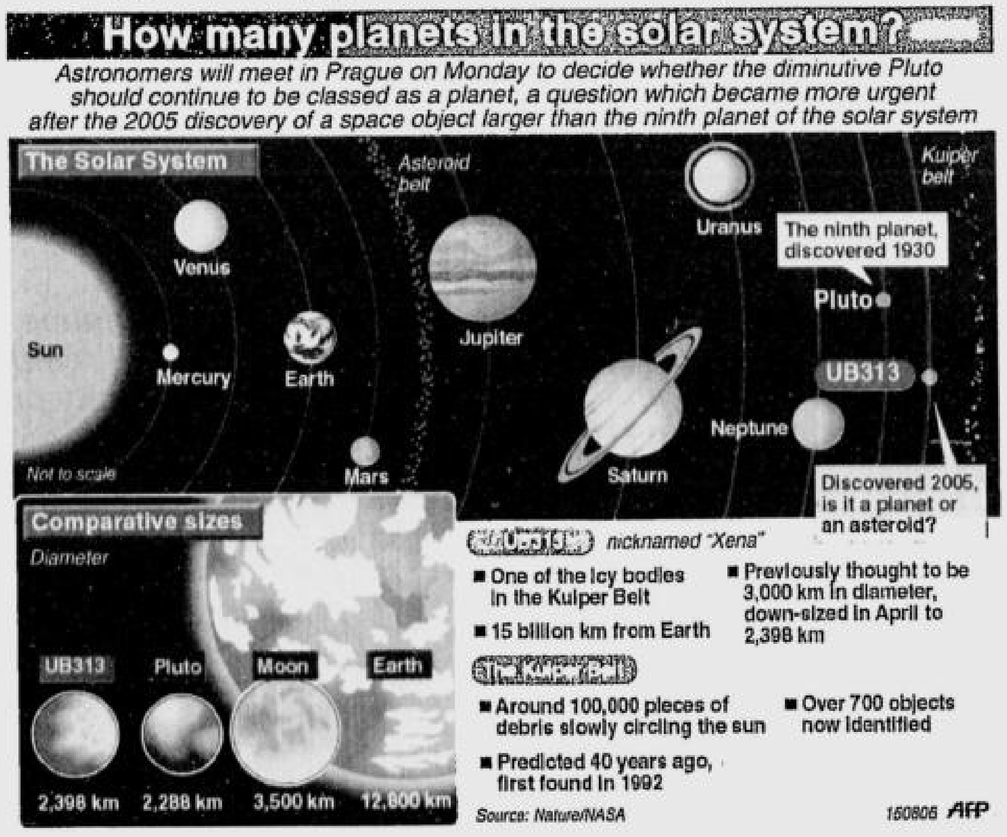
San Jose Mayor Alex Belena, during a forum last week, said "there seemed to be no activity in our city."

Because of the situation, businessmen and residents are complaining, he said.

Belena said he supported the anti-insurgency campaign launched by President Macapagal-Arroyo. He assured the residents that he would fight any form of abuse and that he would be the first to protest if any of their rights was violated.

HUNT/ A8

## *Big Bang: There may be 12 planets, not 9*


How many planets in the solar system?
Astronomers will meet in Prague on Monday to decide whether the diminutive Pluto should continue to be classed as a planet, a question which became more urgent after the 2005 discovery of a space object larger than the ninth planet of the solar system
The Solar System
Asteroid belt
Kuiper belt
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Mercury
Venus
Earth
Mars
Jupiter
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Pluto
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Comparative sizes
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UB313
Pluto
Moon
Earth
2,398 km
2,288 km
3,500 km
12,800 km
UB313 nicknamed "Xena"
One of the icy bodies in the Kuiper Belt
15 billion km from Earth
Previously thought to be 3,000 km in diameter, down-sized in April to 2,398 km
The Kuiper Belt
Around 100,000 pieces of debris slowly circling the sun
Predicted 40 years ago, first found in 1992
Over 700 objects now identified
Source: Nature/NASA
160806 AFP

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC—OUR SOLAR system would have 12 planets instead of nine under a proposed "Big Bang" expansion by leading astronomers, changing what billions of schoolchildren are taught about their corner of the cosmos.

Much-maligned Pluto would remain a planet—and its largest moon, plus two other heavenly bodies, would join Earth's neighborhood—under a draft resolution to be formally presented Wednesday to the International Astronomical Union, the arbiter of what is and is not a planet.

"Yes, Virginia, Pluto is a planet," quipped Richard Binzel, a professor of planetary science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The proposal could change, however: Binzel and the other nearly 2,500 astronomers from 75 nations meeting in Prague to hammer out a universal definition of a planet will hold two brainstorming sessions before they vote on the resolution next week. But the draft comes from the IAU's executive committee, which only submits recommendations likely to get

BIG BANG/ A6

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/16/06

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

# Romulo disputes DOJ findings

A FORMER DIRECTOR OF EQUItable PCI Bank yesterday disputed the findings of the Department of Justice which found "probable cause" to charge him for violations of the Securities Regulation Code.

The case stems from a complaint filed by Winston F. Garcia, president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), against businessman Roberto R. Romulo for the latter's role in fending off an attempted hostile takeover of the bank by a group led by shopping mall tycoon Henry Sy Sr. in 2004.

In a statement, Romulo said his accusers were unable to show that his acts, while serving as an independent director of Equitable PCI, had interfered in his exercise of independent judgment.

"Not once, despite Garcia's general accusation, has [Romulo] actually acted contrary to the interests of Equitable PCI Bank," the statement said.

The justice department ruled that there was probable cause to charge Romulo for allegedly withholding information that would have disqualified him from being appointed as an independent director of the bank. This would constitute a violation of the Securities Regulation Code.

The DOJ noted that Romulo also chaired the board of Equicom Systems Management, alleged to be a sister company of Equitable PCI Bank, at a time when he was serving on the bank's board.

"Respondent Romulo, despite knowledge of his personal circumstances that would disqualify him from being elected as independent director, withheld such information from the members of the nomination committee and the board of directors of the bank," the DOJ said.

Romulo confirmed holding a position on the Equicom board but claimed that the firm was not in any way connected to Equitable PCI Bank. *Daxim L. Lucas*

# Senate foils bid to arrest Sen. Jinggoy

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A ROUTINELY QUIET DAY IN the Senate was disrupted when an 8-member team from the Pasay City Police went to the chamber yesterday to arrest Sen. Jinggoy Estrada in connection with the P10 million libel suit filed against him by Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Senate President Manuel Villar rushed to the Senate to block the arrest and drive the policemen away.

While Villar confronted the police team at about 1:30 p.m., Estrada disappeared from a second-floor conference room where he was attending the Senate investigation of the nursing exam leakage.

He later reappeared to deliver a privilege speech accusing the President of having had a hand in the issuance of the arrest warrant.

He called Mike Arroyo the "godfather of all smugglers in the Philippines" and the President's "acknowledged bagman."

Estrada, who is out on bail as a co-accused with his father, deposed President Estrada, in a plunder case, claimed that Elmer Mitra, the acting prosecutor of Pasay City, was pressured into finding probable cause in the libel case against him. Mitra was allegedly offered a permanent appointment.

Estrada said that when Villar refused the warrant, one of the policemen protested and told the Senate president: "*Paano po kung tawagin kami ng* Malacañang? *Ano po ang sasabihin namin?*" (What if we are summoned by Malacañang. What are we going to say?)

In his speech, Estrada denounced the Arroyo administration for trying to "silence, harass and intimidate" him and for treating him "like an ordinary criminal."

The warrant of arrest issued by Judge Wilhelmina Jorge Wagan concerned a libel case filed by Mike Arroyo against Estrada who linked the First Gentleman to big-time smugglers.

Villar told the policemen Estrada was covered by the constitutional immunity from arrest while Congress remained in session.

## The usual culprit

Senators crossed party lines to deplore the attempted arrest and point the finger at Malacañang.

Villar said the police would not have made a move against a senator without the Palace's blessing. He said the incident could further strain relations between the Palace and the Senate and could affect the passage of the antiterrorism bill.

The incident occurred in the midst of a Senate-Malacañang stand-off over the refusal of Executive Branch officials to appear in various Senate hearings.

"We were surprised at this brazen attempt. It is very saddening that they are putting the heat on the Senate. This is (part of a) pattern of harassment of the Senate," said Villar.

Sen. Franklin Drilon said the attempted arrest was "very stupid."

He cited Article 6, Sec. 11 of the Constitution: "A senator or member of the House of Representatives shall in all offenses punishable by not more than six years imprisonment, be privileged from arrest while the Congress is in session."

Other senators, all lawyers, took turns defending Estrada.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the arrest warrant against Estrada was a constitutional issue which all senators must resist.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said the policemen could be criminally and administratively charged for attempting to make an illegal arrest.

Pangilinan proposed the Senate pass a resolution, later adopted, upholding parliamentary immunity from arrest.

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago pointed out that Estrada was entitled to the right to equal protection and due process. She said the term session referred to the entire year that covers one regular session of Congress.

Estrada, who initially said he would nonetheless voluntarily go to the Pasay court to post bail, changed tack on the advice of the Senate "legal eagles."

*ROADMAP TO ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY Series 2*

**An Urgent Appeal to Both Houses of Congress:**

***AMEND THE EPIRA LAW TO AVERT ANOTHER POWER CRISIS***

*The Philippines is on the verge of another power crisis.*

Our current old, antiquated and obsolete power facilities cannot sustain the increasing demand for power. **As it is, we maybe experiencing brownouts as early as the summer of 2008** when hydro-power plants are at their lowest level.

To make things worse, the 600MW Mirant Sual (Pangasinan) coal-fired power plant broke down last Friday. It will take ***6-8 MONTHS TO REPAIR.*** This coincided with the scheduled maintenance of one unit of the 700MW Mirant Pagbilao (Quezon) coal-fired power plant. This forced NPC to run power plants using the more expensive bunker fuel and diesel plants and temporarily increased WESM (Wholesale Electricity Spot Market) prices.

***Thus, the Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW) urges Congress and Senate to immediately amend the EPIRA Law (RA 9136).***

These amendments will allow more foreign investments to bring in the much needed capital to build **NEW** power plants to generate the additional **4,438 MW** power requirement up to 2010.

COPW proposes the following essential amendments to the EPIRA law:

1. **For Congress to amend the EPIRA Law and grant the winning TRANSCO bidder a 25-year congressional franchise to operate.**

   COPW further proposes that the government follow the PETRON formula which will grant 40% to the winning bidder, 40% the government, and 20% to the public.

2. **For Congress to reduce the required privatization of NPC Assets from 70% to 50%. *Today, ONLY 19.5% of the NPC power plants are privatized.***
3. **Making the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) truly independent so that its decisions will NOT be subject to review by the courts.**
4. **Amend the NPC Charter (RA 8395) to remove the NPC's exemption from the payment of taxes.** This will bring the total installed capacity whose ***income tax holidays will expire on December 2006 to 83% and on December 2008 to 95% of installed capacity.***

   COPW will meet with NPC Officials to reconcile conflicting statements that NPC will realize a consolidated net income of P85 billion in 2006 & a projected Net Loss of P48.8 Billion in 2007.

***COPW commits itself to ensure full transparency and disclosure on the bidding process of the power plants being privatized, and that the safeguards to guarantee maximum value to the government are in place.***

COPW will work closely with the government and the private sector to ensure that milestone dates are met.

***For its part, COPW will monitor closely the schedule of maintenance and repair of power plants to avoid using inefficient plants that will result in higher power rates. This will help us anticipate any increase in electricity prices and to inform the public on the country's power situation.***

For online posting of COPW issues, log on to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COPW/

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# SC affirms order on Meralco refund

**By Armand N. Nocum and Abigail L. Ho**

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY ORDERED the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) to refund customers for generation charges collected in 2004 after junking a final appeal by the country's largest power distributor and the state regulator, the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Meralco was directed to refund to its customers the 13.27 centavos per kilowatt hour it has been collecting, representing the rate increase from P3.1886 to P3.3213 per kWh that the ERC approved in 2004, but which the SC nullified last February.

But the high court said Meralco may credit the refund to customers in future electricity bills.

Jesus Francisco, Meralco president and chief operating officer, said the Supreme Court decision would cost the distribution utility a little more than P800 million.

"The impact isn't that big because we only collected for three months. When the order came out, we immediately stopped collecting," he said in a telephone interview.

The 13.27 centavo per kWh rate increase that Meralco sought in 2004 represented the generation costs it incurred from November 2003 to January 2004 which it has to recover.

The state regulator allows distribution utilities to recover any change in the cost of power that they purchase from the state generator, the National Power Corp., and the independent power producers through the quarterly GRAM, or Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism, reflected in customers' electricity bills as a generation charge.

## Other way to recover

Since the generation costs cannot be recovered through a rate hike, Francisco said Meralco would have to seek other means allowed by the ERC to recover the amount it would have to refund to customers.

"A distribution utility should not absorb this. But since this is the court's order, we'll have to follow and do a refund. We'll just ask the ERC's permission to recover this somehow," he said.

In the unanimous decision, the SC denied with finality the appeals from Meralco and the ERC to the court's Feb. 2, 2006 decision nullifying the ERC order dated June 2, 2004 which granted the increase.

In its February ruling, the court said the ERC should not have approved the 13.27 centavo rate increase because Meralco failed to publish an application for the rate hike and the ERC did not hold hearings prior to the tariff hike approval.

The implementing rules of the GRAM do not require publication of GRAM rate hike applications.

## Uncertain environment

But the high court said the GRAM implementing rules were invalid as well as they had not been published in the "Official Gazette" or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Analysts have said that the high court's ruling highlights the uncertain regulatory environment for businesses in the Philippines.

Meralco, owned 25 percent by the Philippine government and 23 percent by a unit of the Spanish-based utility Union Fenosa, is still trying to complete a P30-billion refund to consumers ordered by the SC in November 2002 for years of over-billing.

Ratings agency Standard & Poor's estimated in February that Meralco, which supplies electricity to 4.3 million homes and businesses in Metro Manila and surrounding areas, had cash balances of P13.8 billion at the end of 2005, which should be adequate to cover the most recent refund order by the high court.

The court decision was released after the stock market closed. Meralco's shares open to foreigners ended unchanged at P24.75 as its A shares, open only to locals, were steady at P16.25. *With Reuters*

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# Mayon calms down, but waiting continues

SEISMIC ACTIVITY AT THE COUNTRY'S most active volcano calmed overnight but it could be weeks before 40,000 people evacuated from the shadow of the shuddering mountain can return home.

Villagers, sheltering in schools, have been waiting for Mt. Mayon to explode after experts warned last week it could erupt at any time. The warning triggered mass evacuations from an 8-km danger zone on the mountain's southeast flank.

"If the decline in volcanic activity is sustained for two weeks then it may be possible to downgrade the alert level," said July Sabit, acting head of monitoring at the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

"We are looking at two scenarios right now. One is that activity may be sustained and eventually decline. The other is the possibility that the volcanic activity will pick up and result in a more explosive type of eruption," he said.

Sabit said if Mayon did erupt it could take up to a month before residents, many of them rice and coconut farmers, could return to their homes.

Evacuees have to contend with cramped conditions in the schools, with around 15 families sharing one classroom. Food is limited and sanitation is poor.

## Tension breaker

The tense mood was lifted at one evacuation center on Tuesday when a woman gave birth to a baby girl.

The government has promised more food for those displaced and ordered better sanitation as well as more permanent structures to replace makeshift huts.

The 2,462-meter Mayon has been spitting ash and molten rock since July, driving a four-story wall of lava more than 6 km long from its crater.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council reported that the number of evacuees from the 32 barangay of Sto. Domingo, Daraga, Camalig, Malilipot, and Guinobatan and the cities of Legazpi, Ligao and Tabaco has reached 9,389 families or 43,951 individuals.

NDCC officials said they have secured power generation sets and communication equipment to facilitate the evacuation while food, drinking water, medicine and clothing have been delivered to the 28 schools that have been converted into evacuation centers.

These items came from government supplies and from private companies, they said.

## Constant threat

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz yesterday said soldiers engaged in relief work and evacuation faced constant threats from communist insurgents who have ignored President Macapagal-Arroyo's appeal to spare them.

"It's sad that even in this time of calamity, when the Armed Forces are [helping with] Task Force Mayon, they are being attacked by the NPA (New People's Army)," Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz told a Palace briefing yesterday.

Cruz cited the case of a sergeant who was shot in the back of the head by the NPA guerrillas while helping evacuees.

Cruz said the threat from the NPAs has become an unnecessary distraction for the soldiers.

Famed for its near-perfect cone shape, Mayon has erupted around 50 times over the past four centuries, most recently in 2000 and 2001. The most destructive eruption was in 1841 when lava flows buried a town and killed 1,200 people. ***Reuters and Gil C. Cabacungan***

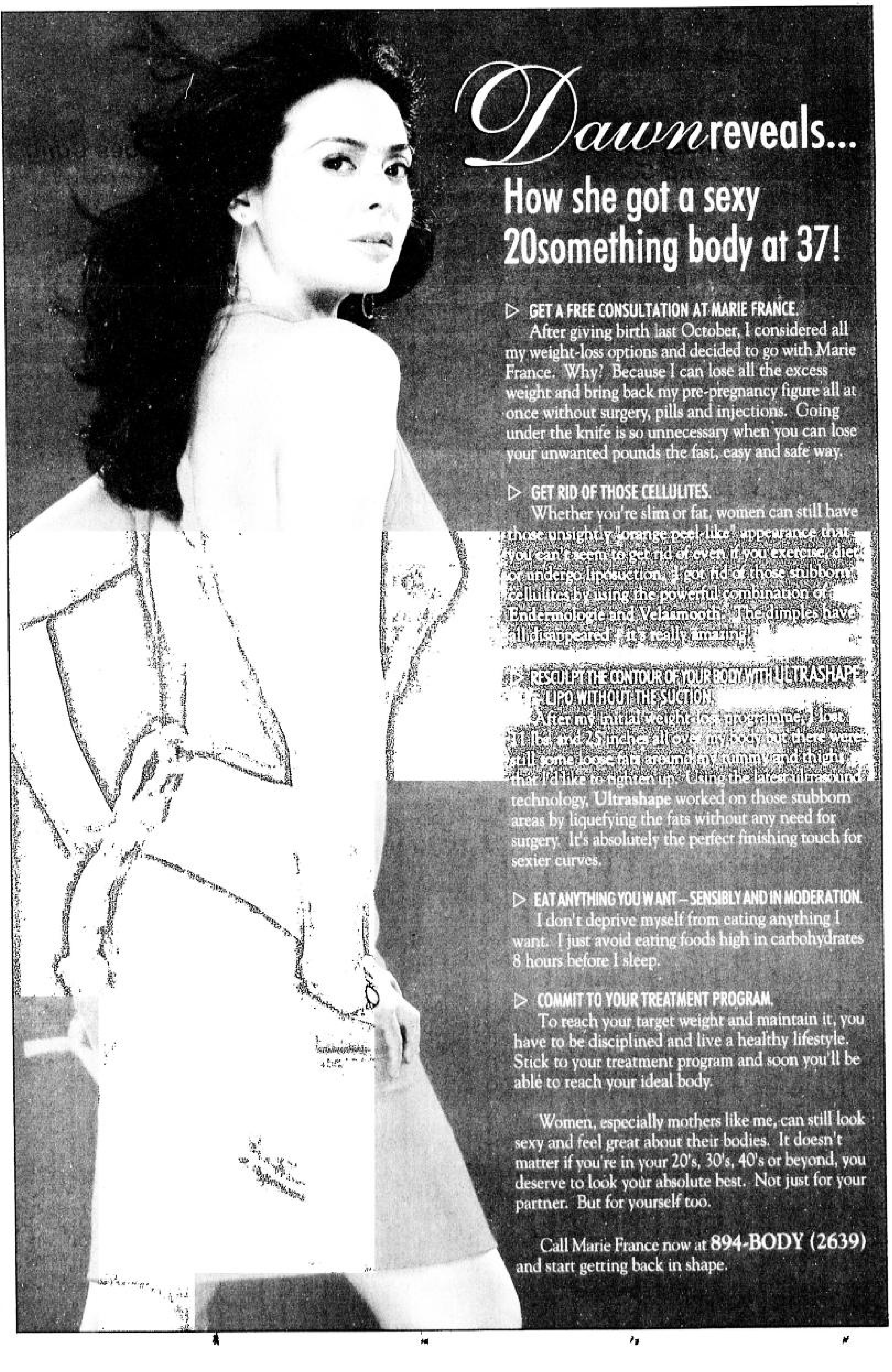
# SC ruling elates GMA

**By Christine O. Avendaño**

ELATED BY THE HIGH COURT ruling that recognized her power to bar two military officials from attending a Senate inquiry on alleged poll cheating last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday vowed she would protect the military from political interference.

"I am determined to insulate the Armed Forces from politics in the pursuit of its paramount role of defending the Republic from threats to its stability and security—and shall not allow any officer or soldier to be dragged into a whimsical inquiry by Congress just to humiliate the uniform," President Arroyo said in a statement.

The President said she "appreciated" the Supreme Court's decision the other day that upheld her authority to stop retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan from attending the Senate inquiry by "virtue of her power as Commander in Chief," and that as a consequence a military officer who defies such an injunction was liable under military justice.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# *Tribunal orders probe of appeals court justice*

**By Armand N. Nocum**

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ORDERED THE investigation of a Court of Appeals associate justice who was allegedly delaying the resolution of cases in his division "unless the parties would come across."

In an en-banc resolution, the high court ordered the conduct of a "judicial audit" on CA 12th Division Chair Elvi John Asuncion after an "aggrieved party" wrote the court to complain about alleged "corrupt activities" on the part of Asuncion.

In a Feb. 17 letter, the complainant took Asuncion to task for his "unreasonable delay in the disposition of motions for reconsideration which have been pending for six months to more than a year unless the parties could come across."

In a resolution signed by Clerk of Court Ma. Luisa D. Villarama dated July 18 and which the INQUIRER obtained from the CA yesterday, the high-court tapped retired Supreme Court Justice Bernardo P. Pardo to investigate the matter and make a recommendation in 90 days.

In 2001, Asuncion was also investigated for allegedly receiving money placed in two gym bags and which were brought by two men to his office. But Asuncion was cleared of the issue after the high court found that the complaint had no merit.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Asuncion in his office, but a staff member in his office said he was unavailable for an interview.

In its resolution, the high court also directed CA Presiding Justice Ruben T. Reyes to form a committee to achieve a "zero backlog of cases" by studying the number of pending cases and to determine how the problem can be resolved.

COUNTING MACHINES DEMO

# 'Only Mega can do it'

**By Norman Bordadora**

ONLY THE MEGA PACIFIC CONSORtium may perform a public demonstration of the 100 percent accuracy of the counting machines it produced in connection with the failed billion-peso poll automation contract it entered into with the Commission on Elections.

Lawyer Gabriel Villareal, legal counsel of Comelec commissioner Resureccion Borra in the Ombudsman investigation into the anomalous contract, made the manifestation in reply to suggestions that Comelec conduct a public demonstration of the accuracy performance of the machines as found out by the Department of Science and Technology.

Villareal, said that a resolution issued by the Supreme Court on Jan. 15, 2006 said that "the ownership of the ACMs never left MPC," and thus, the Comelec does not have the authority to submit, grant access to, or make available the machines for any demonstration.

"Conducting a demonstration or any similar exercise are attributes of ownership, which only Mega Pacific can do, based on the decision of the Supreme Court," said Villareal in his manifestation submitted yesterday to the Ombudsman.

"Much as the Comelec would like to demonstrate to the Ombudsman the capability and technological superiority of the ACMs in its custody, it cannot do so because it would mean subverting the decision of the Supreme Court," he added.

Villareal recalled that early last year, the Comelec asked the High Court to allow the use of the 1,991 ACMs supplied by MPC for the elections in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), but the Supreme Court denied the request, citing its decision nullifying the Mega Pacific contract.

Villareal said the January 2005 resolution of the high court added that the Comelec should "refrain from implementing any other contract or agreement entered into with regard to this (election automation) project" with MPC.

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# SC restrains DOH ban on baby milk ads

**By Armand N. Nocum**

THE SUPREME COURT HAS GRANTED the petition of pharmaceutical and health care manufacturers seeking to temporarily stop the Department of Health from implementing a law that they claimed would put an "absolute ban on advertising, marketing, promotion, product sampling, or sponsorship of breast milk substitutes."

In a resolution dated Aug. 15, the high court reversed its July 11 ruling where it denied the complainants' petition for the issuance of a temporary restraining order on the implementation of the provisions of Executive Order 51—also known as the Milk Code—which then President Corazon Aquino signed into law in 1986 to regulate the use of breast milk substitutes.

In its order, the court said the TRO will stay in effect "until further orders from this court."

It also required the complainants under the Pharmaceutical and Health Care Association of the Philippines (PHCAP) to post a P500,000 bond while the case is ongoing.

In a petition against eight officials of the DOH led by Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III, PHCAP sought a stop in the implementation of the Milk Code's "Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR)."

Although the law was issued in 1986, the revision of the implementing rules and regulations was promulgated on May 15, 2006 and was put in effect on July 7, 2006.

In 32-page petition, the PHCAP said the RIRR "impairs the Constitutional right of the people (to) access of information" on breast milk substitutes.

## 'Flawed'

The RIRR, they said, is "fundamentally flawed" because it claims that "breastfeeding substitutes are hazardous to health and that breastfeeding is the exclusive means to nourish infants and there is no substitute or replacement for breastmilk."

The milk manufacturers also claimed that the RIRR "baselessly expanded its application to 'young children' beyond 2 years old when the mandate of the Milk Code only covers infants up to 12 months old."

"Thus, the RIRR brings the entire business activities of milk companies within its coverage," the milk manufacturers said.

They also took the RIRR to task for "unjustly" imposing "more labeling requirements" as to the advantages of breastmilk over manufactured milk "beyond the prescription of the law."

The strict implementation of the RIRR, they say, would cause milk manufacturers to "suffer grave and irreparable damage."

Thus, they said the RIRR is "unconstitutional for violating the due process clause of the Constitution," arguing that only Congress can amend the Milk Code. They also said the RIRR constitutes "restraint of trade."

The PHCAP is made up of local and international milk manufacturers and dealers that include Abbot Laboratories, Wyeth Philippines, Mead Johnson, Bayer, Novartis, GlaxoSmithKline, and Mercury Drug Corp.

# Dela Rosa; 58

LUIS "CHIQUE" BELZUNCE DE LA ROSA died on the Feast of the Assumption of our Lady on Tuesday, Aug. 15, in Glendale, California at the age of 58. He is survived by his wife Sarah Garcia, mother Angeles Belzunce, children, Jaja and David Waasdorp, Feliz and Josh Schippe and Louie, grandchildren, Jacob, Sean and Sara and his brothers and sisters, Raffy, Ginger, Menchu, Mike, Eddie, Maricel, Bobby, Charito, Monina and Maribel.

Funeral arrangements in the US will be announced later.

# Magdalo officer enters no plea in arraignment

THE FIRST OF SIX JUNIOR officers belonging to the Magdalo rebel group who were arrested in July during a raid of their hideout was arraigned yesterday before a Quezon City court.

First Lt. Nathaniel Rabonza refused to enter a plea to the charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives, prompting the judge to enter a "not guilty" plea on his behalf.

As Rabonza's lawyer did not show up for the second time, Judge Rosanna Fe Romero-Maglaya directed Theodore Te, who is already representing 1st Lt. Sonny Sarmiento, to act as Rabonza's counsel.

The arraignment of four other accused—Sarmiento, 2nd Lt. Angelbert Gay, 2nd Lt. Aldrin Baldonado and Navy Lt. Kiram Sadava—was deferred until after the court acts on their motion questioning the legality of the search warrant used in their arrest.

The sixth Magdalo soldier, 1st Lt. Patricio Bumidang, asked the court for time to get a new lawyer before being arraigned.

Two civilians, Jose Christopher Belmonte and Michael Yangzon, who were arrested with the group, pleaded innocent to the charges during their arraignment in late July.

## Invalidate search and seizure

The eight were arrested after a raid on their safehouse turned up high-powered weapons and an alleged blueprint of the Batasang Pambansa complex.

In two motions separately filed by their lawyers, the soldiers asked the court to invalidate the search and seizure of their rented house at the Filinvest II subdivision in Batasan Hills on July 7, and disallow the use of the evidence collected there.

The lawyers of Gay, Baldonado, Sadava and Belmonte said the Manila executive judge who issued the search warrant had no jurisdiction over the case.

They also argued that the police and military officers who had applied for the search warrant had failed to establish probable cause.

But in their opposition filed yesterday, state prosecutors cited a court resolution authorizing the executive judges of Manila and Quezon City to issue search warrants even outside their territorial jurisdiction.

State prosecutor Nolibien Quiambao argued that the police and military had established probable cause for the search warrant, particularly with the firsthand testimony of witnesses who claimed to have seen Gay and Sarmiento carrying high-powered firearms before the raid.

During the oral arguments, Te wondered why the witnesses had not done anything to arrest Gay and Sarmiento when they allegedly saw them carrying the firearms.

The court gave the defense lawyers five days to submit their oral arguments in writing, and another five days for the state lawyers to file their rejoinder.

The six officers are among the group of young captains and lieutenants from elite Army units—calling themselves the Magdalo—who led about 300 soldiers in briefly occupying the Oakwood Premier Hotel at the Ayala Center mall in the Makati financial district in July 2003.

They escaped from detention last January while awaiting trial for the failed coup. *DJ Yap*

# GMA orders crackdown on cellphone robberies

WORRIED ABOUT the rising incidence of mobile phone robberies, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered one of her top security officials to take the lead in a task force to curb this crime and regulate the market for used mobile phones.

President Arroyo had appointed Deputy National Security Adviser Virtus Gil to head a task force clothed with police and operational powers against cellphone theft which she said have become "prevalent and even deadly."

In a report to the President, Gil cited data from the Philippine National Police which showed that cellphone snatching incidents rose by 53 percent and cellphone robbery by 35 percent over the last three years.

Gil was also tasked to implement his proposal to establish a cellular phone registration system that would allow victims of cellphone theft to either block their phones from being sold in the gray market or trace the perpetrators.

Under this system, all cellphones and SIM cards sold in the Philippines would be registered with the National Telecommunications Commission which would be responsible for disabling or tracing the units.

The President ordered the former police general to coordinate with the NTC to craft a comprehensive plan against cellphone theft and illicit sale of stolen units.

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# 'Pols expect a lot but they don't give us tools we need'

**By Luige A. del Puerto**

A RANKING OFFICER FROM THE INTELLIGENCE community summed up his colleagues' and his own sentiments about the ongoing debates on the anti-terror bill: "They expect a lot from us yet they do not give us the tools [to do our job]."

"If a bomb explodes, we become the whipping boys. Politicians would ask us where we used the intelligence funds," he added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The intelligence officer closely monitored how British investigators thwarted a bomb plot at Heathrow airport and cited major differences in how Filipino and European law enforcers go after terrorists.

British investigators were using sophisticated forensic and technical equipment—tools that Filipino investigators could only dream of.

The officer also noted that Britain's terrorism laws allow the detention of suspects for 28 days without charging them. In the Philippines, suspects must be charged or let go within 36 hours.

He cited the case of the Rajah Soliman Islamic Movement (RSIM), a group reportedly with ties to the Abu Sayyaf. The RSIM was suspected of masterminding the Super Ferry 14 bombing that killed more than 100 people two years ago.

## 'Real target'

One of its members, Angelo Trinidad, had been arrested and sentenced to die along another Filipino and an Indonesian for the Valentine's Day bombing in Makati City last year that killed four people and injured 60 others.

"We arrested Trinidad in Anda, Pangasinan in 2002," the officer said.

Police had cracked down on the RSIM and arrested several of its members, suspected of undergoing terrorist training in a religious school in Pangasinan.

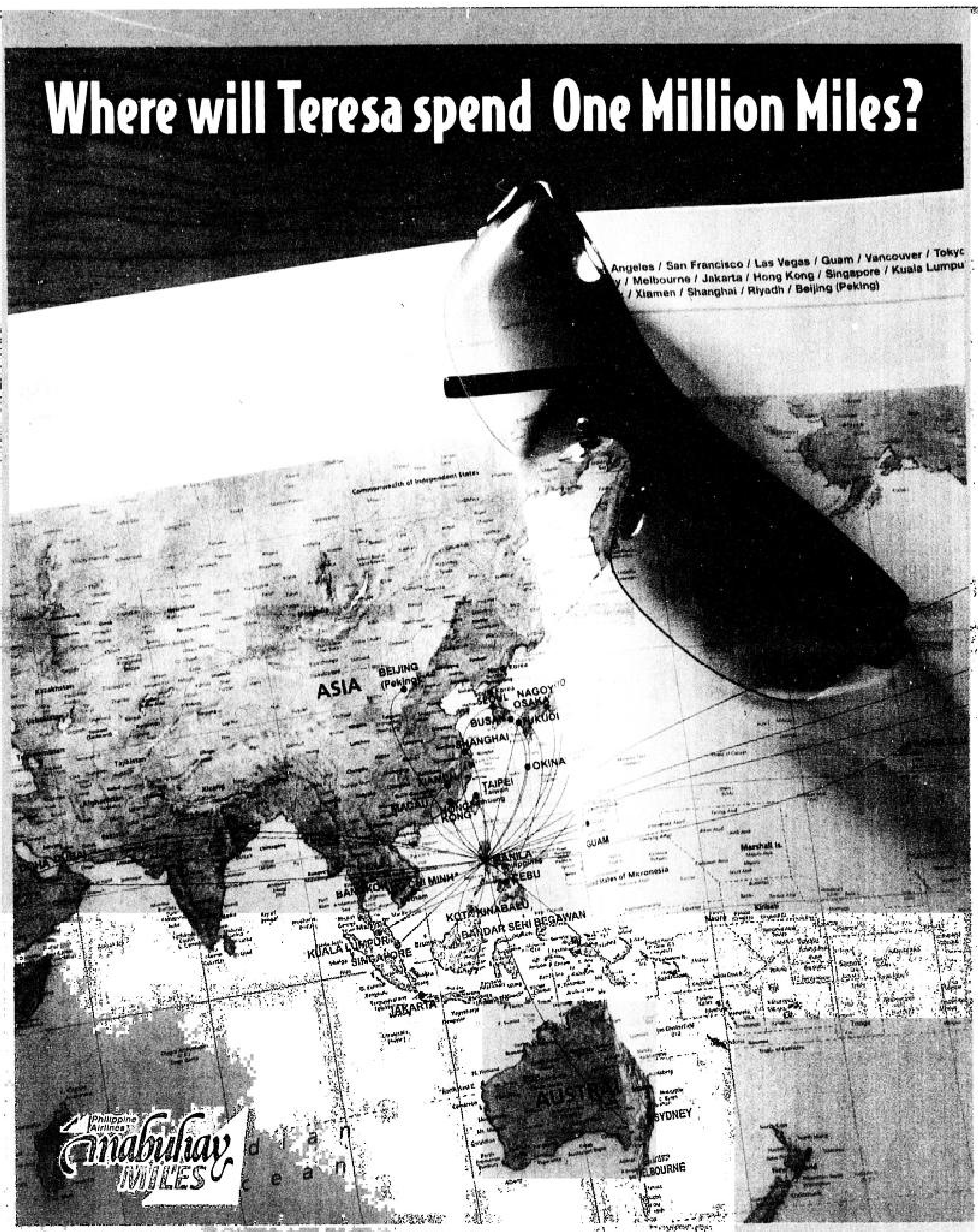
"But they posted bail, went to train in Sulu, came back and bombed Superferry 14 in 2004 ," the officer said. "The following year, on Valentine's Day, they bombed a bus on Edsa, Makati."

Militants, meanwhile, said the real target of the anti-terrorism bill was the Communist Party of the Philippines, its armed wing the New People's Army, and mass organizations espousing national democracy, a program which is identified with the CPP.

"Malacañang, the AFP and the PNP have branded our organizations as the fronts for the CPP, NPA and NDF (National Democratic Front). Branding the CPP as a terrorist organization shows that their real targets are us," said the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), a vocal critic of the Arroyo regime.

KMP is affiliated with the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, whose members are victims of terrorism.

"The true reason behind the eagerness of the AFP and the PNP to have the anti-terror bill passed is so that they can arrest or kill us political activists, with greater impunity and with a cover of dubious legality," the KMP said.



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# Hold Petron accountable for oil spill, gov't asked

From page A1

He was joined by officials of the province and Petron and the owner of Sunshine Maritime Development Corp.

Reyes said the Guimaras oil spill could be seven times bigger than the one in Semirara, Antique, last year. A power barge ran aground and spilled at least 364,120 liters of bunker fuel last December.

Reyes said special equipment was necessary because the sunken ship was beyond the reach of divers.

## Accountability

Accountability was also on the mind of Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon. He said he was asking the advice of legal luminaries on what legal action he could take, because "somebody has to answer for the consequences of the oil spill."

But Petron chair Nicasio Alcantara said the oil spill was an accident. "We don't blame anyone," he said.

Alcantara said Petron would help in the containment and cleanup operations, and provide assistance.

The Coast Guard will convene the Special Board of Marine Inquiry on Friday to investigate the cause of the sinking and to determine any liability of the crew and operator.

MT Solar I was carrying two million liters of bunker fuel when it sank 24 km southwest of Guimaras last Friday.

The vessel, owned by Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., was under contract with oil refiner Petron Corp. to ship fuel to Western Mindanao Power Corp. in Zamboanga del Sur province.

Coast Guard officials estimated that 200,000 liters had leaked out of the sunken tanker.

The spill has already contaminated around more than 200 km of coastline and more than 20 sq km of coral reefs.

## Overloaded?

Melvin Purzuelo, executive director of Green Forum Western Visayas in Iloilo, said that based on the figures released by the Coast Guard, MT Solar I could have been overloaded when it sank.

It had a 998-ton capacity and was carrying more than 12,000 barrels of oil (equivalent to 2.4 million liters), he said.

**RESIDENTS of Barangay San Roque in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, complain of bad odor from the oil spill.** ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

If these are correct, then it was overloaded when it sank because bunker fuel has a specific gravity of 0.98 kilogram per liter, according to Purzuelo.

The tanker should be carrying a maximum load of 1.02 million liters and not 2.4 million liters, he said.

## Regret

Clemente Cancio, president of Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., said his company deeply "regrets" the accident and assured Guimarasnons that the company would shoulder the expenses and provide affected residents with assistance.

"Our company will not turn our back on our responsibility," said Cancio.

The oil spill has "heavily damaged" the 1,100-hectare Taclong national marine reserve in Nueva Valencia, according to Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava.

As of Tuesday evening, the oil slick had spread to San Lorenzo town in Guimaras, according to Nava.

## Fishkill

At least 3,000 fisherfolk and around 15,000 persons have been affected.

In some areas, a black sticky sludge was 2 inches thick and had coated rocks, mangroves and walls of houses near the shoreline.

Matilde Sabobo, 56, a resident of Sitio Sumirib in Barangay La Paz, one of the first and worst hit by the spill, said fish catch had gone down to almost nothing since the oil spill started.

"We have no means of income aside from what we catch from the seas. We'll just wait for government assistance ... what else we can do," Sabobo told the Inquirer.

## Dizziness

Majelia Delosines, 38, said residents especially children have started complaining of dizziness and chest pains because of the fumes emitting from the bunker fuel.

The affected residents have been dependent on food assistance consisting of two kilos of rice, two cans of sardines and three packs of instant noodles from the local government.

Nava said the provincial government was spending P100 per family per day for the 3,000 affected families.

## British experts

Cancio said the company's insurance firm was tapping two British experts to study the possible retrieval of the vessel or its load.

The experts, who are expected to arrive today, will consider retrieval options like the use of robotics or unmanned underwater vessels to siphon off the remaining bunker oil in the sunken vessel's cargo tanks.

Chief Supt. Geary Barias, chair of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC), said international help is needed because of the lack of equipment and expertise.

Maj. Gen. Cardozo Luna, head of the Cebu-based Armed Forces of the Philippines Central Command, has activated the Disaster Response Task Group to help control the oil slick.

The Coast Guard Central-Eastern Visayas district based in Cebu sent personnel of the Marine Environmental Protection Unit to assist in the Guimaras oil spill cleanup, according to its head, Commodore Alejandro Flora.

The team brought with them one rubber boat, 10 oil spill booms, 10 drums of oil dispersants and sprayers.

"The affected area was so big, so we have to help the people there in conducting the cleanup drive and to help control the spill," Flora said.

Marañon yesterday said the Philippine Coast Guard had assured that the oil spill in the Guimaras Strait was not likely to hit his province.

Marañon, nevertheless, issued Executive Order No. 15 establishing a Task Force Oil Spill Area Coordinating Center for a "comprehensive, coordinated and unified response" for the entire island to combat the hazardous effects of the oil spill.

## Reimbursement

Marañon said he had also written Petron to ask the oil firm to shoulder the P2.5 million in fuel that local government units in Negros Occidental were spending for sea patrols to prevent the oil spill from entering the waters of the province.

Valladolid Mayor Ricardo Presbitero said the oil spill was about 14 km away from Negros Occidental as it was last reported on the coast of Costa Aguada Resort in Inampulugan Island, near Guimaras.

The mayor said that should the slick hit the waters of Valladolid, it would hurt the livelihood of about 3,000 fishermen and damage a P50-million anchovy and other marine product industry.

## State of emergency

Pulupandan Mayor Luis Mondia said about 4,000 fishermen in his town would also be affected if the oil spill hit their shoreline and hurt a P50-million shrimp industry.

Coast Guard, Shell and Petron oil spill equipment had been brought to Pulupandan to contain the spill at the Guimaras Strait, Presbitero said.

Presbitero said his town declared another state of emergency on top of the state of calamity it declared in response to the recent flood damage. *With reports from Christine Avendaño in Manila and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

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# Big Bang: There may be 12 planets, not 9

From page A1

two-thirds approval from the group.

Besides reaffirming the status of puny Pluto—whose detractors insist it should not be a planet at all—the new lineup would include 2003 UB313, the farthest-known object in the solar system and nicknamed Xena; Pluto's largest moon, Charon; and the asteroid Ceres, which was a planet in the 1800s before it was demoted.

The panel also proposed a new category of planets called "plutons," referring to Pluto-like objects that reside in the Kuiper Belt, a mysterious, disc-shaped zone beyond Neptune containing thousands of comets and planetary objects. Pluto itself and two of the potential newcomers—Charon and 2003 UB313—would be plutons.

Astronomers also were being asked to get rid of the term "minor planets," which long has been used to collectively describe asteroids, comets and other non-planetary objects. Instead, those would become collectively known as "small solar system bodies."

## 12 planets?

If the resolution is approved, the 12 planets in our solar system listed in order of their proximity to the sun would be Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Ceres, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, Charon and the provisionally named 2003 UB313.

Its discoverer, Michael Brown of the California Institute of Technology, nicknamed it Xena after the warrior princess of TV fame, but it likely would be rechristened something else later, the panel said.

The galactic shift would force publishers to update encyclopedias and school textbooks, and elementary school teachers to rejigger the planet mobiles hanging from classroom ceilings. Far outside the realm of science, astrologers accustomed to making predictions based on the classic nine might have to tweak their formulas.

Even if the list of planets is officially lengthened when astronomers vote on Aug. 24, it is not likely to stay that way for long: The IAU has a "watchlist" of at least a dozen other potential candidates that could become planets once more is known about their sizes and orbits.

"The solar system is a middle-aged star, and like all middle-aged things, its waistline is expanding," said Jack Horkheimer, director of the Miami Space Transit Planetarium in the United States and host of Public Broadcasting's Stargazer television show.

Opponents of Pluto, which was named a planet in 1930, still might spoil for a fight. Earth's moon is larger; so is 2003 UB313 (Xena), about 70 miles (113 kilometers) wider.

But the IAU said Pluto met its proposed new definition of a planet: any round object larger than 800 km in diameter that orbits the sun and has a mass roughly one-12,000th that of Earth. Moons and asteroids will make the grade if they meet those basic tests.

## Roundness is key

Roundness is key, experts said, because it indicates an object has enough self-gravity to pull itself into a spherical shape. Yet Earth's moon would not qualify because the two bodies' common center of gravity lies below the surface of the Earth.

"There are as many opinions about Pluto as there are astronomers," Binzel said. "But Pluto has gravity on its side. By the physics of our proposed definition, Pluto makes it by a long shot."

## Cosmic consensus

IAU president Ronald D. Ekers said the draft definition, two years in the making, was an attempt to reach a cosmic consensus and end decades of quarreling. "We don't want an American version, a European version and a Japanese version" of what constitutes a planet, he said.

Neil deGrasse Tyson, director of the Hayden Planetarium at New York's American Museum of Natural History—miscast as a "Pluto-hater," he contends, merely because Pluto was excluded from a planetarium solar system exhibit—said the new guidelines would clear up the fuzzier aspects of the Milky Way.

"For the first time since ancient Greece, we have an unambiguous definition," he said. "Now, when an object is debated as a possible planet, the answer can be swift and clear." AP

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 17, 2006
19th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Ezk 12:1-12
Gospel: Matthew 18:21-19:1

Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive the offenses of my brother or sister? Seven times?" Jesus answered, "No, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

This story throws light on the kingdom of heaven. A king decided to settle the accounts of his servants. Among the first was one who owed him ten thousand gold ingots. As the man could not repay the debt, the king commanded that he be sold as a slave with his wife, children and all his goods in payment.

The official threw himself at the feet of the king and said, "Give me time, and I will pay you back everything." The king took pity on him and not only set him free but even canceled his debt.

This official then left the king's presence and he met one of his companions who owed him a hundred pieces of silver. He grabbed him by the neck and almost strangled him, shouting, "Pay me what you owe!" His companion threw himself at his feet and asked him, "Give me time, and I will pay everything." The other did not agree, but sent him to prison until he had paid all his debt.

His companions saw what happened. They were indignant and so they went and reported everything to their lord. Then the lord summoned his official and said, "Wicked servant, I forgave you all that you owed when you begged me to do so. Weren't you bound to have pity on your companion as I had pity on you?" The lord was now angry, so he handed his servant over to be punished, until he had paid his whole debt."

Jesus added, "So will my heavenly Father do with you unless each of you sincerely forgive your brother or sister."

When Jesus had finished this teaching, he left Galilee and arrived at the border of Judea, on the other side of the Jordan River.

**Commentary**

*Ezekiel's words are ever present reality. The prophet lives in the midst of a rebellious house: they are blind, deaf and stupid. Does it ever change? Do we think for a minute that this is not describing us as individuals, church, parishes, nations? Jesus' parable seems harsh. We are to forgive everyone always: To forgive as a lifestyle because we have been forgiven by God that many times, or more, for everything. And if we don't, we will know justice from God. What we have received we must give or God will treat us as we treat others. Do we ever learn?*

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The Republic of the Philippines ("the Republic") hereby invites owners of Eligible Bonds to submit offers to exchange Eligible Bonds for 10-Year Benchmark Bonds. The terms and conditions of the Exchange are set forth in the Offering Circular dated 16 August 2006, copies of which may be obtained from the website of the Bureau of the Treasury of the Philippines, which can be accessed through the Internet address www.treasury.gov.ph, or from a Government Securities Eligible Dealer ("GSED"). Interested owners of Eligible Bonds should contact a GSED with any questions they may have.

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[1] A full listing of the Eligible Bonds can be found in the Offering Circular dated 16 August 2006 which is available on the website of the Bureau of Treasury of the Philippines (www.treasury.gov.ph)

# No way I'd take exams again, says 'Gringo'

**By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*
**and Leila B. Salaverria**
*in Manila*

THE TOPNOTCHER OF THIS YEAR's nursing licensure examinations said he would not volunteer to retake the exams.

Gringo San Diego, a nursing graduate of the University of Pangasinan, yesterday said he topped the exams because of honest work.

"I won't let anyone take this honor from me just for his or her personal gain," San Diego told the INQUIRER.

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) yesterday decided that retaking the nursing board exams for those who passed the tainted June exams would be optional because it would be unfair to require all of them to postpone the practice of their chosen profession.

"We decided to allow the retake but only for those who are willing to retake (the exams). So those who are not willing to retake do not have to, meaning their June passing will be honored by the PRC," PRC Commissioner Avelina de la Rea said.

The June 2006 passers who do not want to take another set of exams can go ahead and take their oath to become registered nurses.

The oath-taking for the June passers was originally scheduled for Aug. 22, but may be moved to a new date because the PRC would have to look for a venue, De la Rea said.

Some 17,000 of the 42,000 examinees passed the June 2006 nursing licensure examinations.

De la Rea said the PRC Board and the Board of Nursing (BON) members, save for two who were not part of the meeting because they were being charged administratively in connection with the leakage of test questions and answers, all agreed to the decision.

The PRC will issue the guidelines regarding the decision in a week's time.

### Execute waiver

De la Rea said those agreeable to take the exams anew must execute a waiver before the next nursing licensure exams in December stating that the results of their June exams would be invalidated so that the results of their next exams would be honored.

Those who failed in the June exams need not execute a waiver if they are going to retake the tests in December.

"No, I don't want to retake the exams," San Diego told the INQUIRER. "It is tiring and time-consuming. [The feat of topping the exams] was really unexpected although I really gave my best," he said.

If the results of the licensure exams were nullified, he said he would do his best to top the exams again.

### Unfair

San Diego said it was unfair for those who passed the exams to retake them again because the part of the exams that was allegedly leaked had already been taken out of the computations for the test scores.

The results of the June exams were questioned after the leakage of questions concerning Test III and Test V was exposed. To resolve the issue, the PRC invalidated 20 leaked questions in Test III and reduced the weight of Test V because 90 of its 100 questions were leaked.

But students and officials from nursing colleges questioned the PRC decision, saying it casts doubt on the integrity of the exams and may reflect negatively on the image of Philippine nurses. They called for the postponement of the oath-taking and the holding of a new set of exams.

### Expensive

San Diego's mother, Teresita, said the family had talked about the issue and its decision was not to let her son retake the exams.

"*Hindi na. Magastos* (Not anymore. It's expensive)," Teresita said.

She said what was important was that her son had a "clear conscience" and did not cheat to earn the first place among the more than 17,000 who passed this year's licensure exams.

"You did your best and the results would be invalidated. It's unfair," she said.

She was confident that her son could make it again to the top if he would retake the exams "because he is intelligent and he diligently studies his lessons."

De la Rea said the PRC had to consider the plight of the other examinees who were not part of the group that asked the PRC to order the retake.

"Since the population that will bear the cost of their demand was not present, it was not going to be fair for us to grant that for all of the 42,000," she said.

### Ticket out of poverty

De la Rea said it would be too much to ask all of the June passers to take the exams again.

She said many of them might come from poor families and their passing of the board exams could be their ticket out of poverty.

"We believe we should not stop them from enjoying the fruits of their labor just because there is this technical question on the validity of Test V," she said.

The PRC commissioner also said ordering the retake of the exams just to improve the image of Philippine nurses was not a good idea.

"I think, and we in the commission think, it's an extremely big sacrifice to ask 17,000 passers to retake just because they say they want to improve the image of Philippine nursing abroad. I think there are more steps needed to improve that image," she said.

She said the profession and the PRC must cleanse itself and examine its priorities and commitment.

In Baguio City, Fe Marilyn Lorenzo, a former Commission on Higher Education official, and University of the Philippines professor Cora Añonuevo, said some local hospitals and overseas employers had decided not to hire nurses who obtained their license by passing the tainted June board examinations.

### What about culprits?

Ruth Thelma Tingda, governor of the Philippine Nurses Association, described the PRC decision, allowing examinees to retake the board exams in December for free should they wish to, as a "generic pronouncement that does not address the conviction of any culprits."

Tingda said the PRC decided to conduct new tests on a voluntary basis because the country's nursing school deans had failed to come to a consensus on a nursing industry appeal for the June examinees to repeat the tests. *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

# Senate probing nursing leak . . .

From page A1

a copy of which the investigating Senate committee on civil service was furnished, claiming that Jorge Cordero had boasted that he paid for the trip of two BON members to Switzerland.

In her testimony before the BON, Pamela Ortega charged that Cordero made the boast during the last day of the two-day "final coaching" for reviewers enrolled at the INRESS review center in Manila on June 9, two days before the board exams.

### Nursing school owner

It turned out Cordero also owned the nursing school, Philippine College of Health Sciences Inc. (PCHS), and the INRESS Review Center.

When grilled by committee chair Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, BON chair Eufemia Octavio admitted that she and BON member Anesia Dionisio traveled with Cordero to Geneva to attend a convention, but maintained that they paid for their own fare and other expenses.

Cordero, who was reportedly confined at the St. Luke's Medical Center for an unknown ailment, failed to show up. He admitted traveling with the two BON officials, but denied footing their bills, according to a PRC fact-finding report.

"This only confirms allegations of leakage," Biazon later said after the hearing.

### Coaching

At the second hearing, snubbed anew by Professional Regulation Commission officials, another reviewer at INRESS, Dennis Bautista, testified that he and over a thousand others were coached on the "right answers" to questions during their two-day final coaching at the SM Mall in Manila.

He also claimed that retired Col. Victoria S. Ramon, vice president of the Philippine Nurses Association, was present during the review at the SM Mall as alternate instructor, and that Cordero had boasted he would set a dinner with the BON when told of a possible retake of the exams.

This was the same two-day review attended by Ortega.

Biazon said he would consider issuing a subpoena to compel PRC Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero, and Commissioners Renato Valdecantos and Avelina de la Rea to compel them to appear at the next hearing.

The Senate opened the inquiry based on resolutions filed by Senators Pia Cayetano and Richard Gordon seeking investigation of complaints that review materials produced by some review centers contained questions that cropped up at board exams on June 11 and 12.

### Payment of P7 million

In her testimony before the BON, Ortega, a Medical Technology graduate of the University of Santo Tomas who took up nursing at the PCHS and reviewed at INRESS, said she went to SM Manila on the night of June 9 to attend review classes called by Cordero.

"Mr. Cordero told them that he did not pay P7 million for nothing and that he brought and paid the trip recently of two BON members to Switzerland. He assured the second-coursers that they do not need to undergo interviews because the BON will readily sign their application forms, they are his friends," the BON said in a two-page document, recounting Ortega's testimony.

The document was signed by Octaviano and board member Letty Kuan.

"I think Mr. Cordero was just being humbug about his wealth," Kuan said when asked by Biazon what she thought of Cordero's insinuation he paid off the BON some P7 million.

Octaviano, for her part, admitted she and Dionisio traveled with Cordero to Geneva to attend an international convention on regulatory functions hosted by the International Council of Nurses, but maintained that they paid for their own expenses.

The body sent invitations to her as BON chair and another commission member, as well as representatives of nursing organizations.

### Review questions same as test

"I paid for my own trip," she said, saying that she was allowed by the government to go on the trip if there was no cost to the government. "I believe she did also," she said when asked if Dionisio foot her own bills. Dionisio failed to show up at the hearing.

Ortega also "voluntarily" provided the BON a document containing handwritten notes of the test questions and their answers during the two-day review at INRESS. To her surprise, she found these "exactly the same" as some of the test questions during the actual exams, the BON said.

"That's what she wanted to tell us that there was cheating," Kuan said.

## OPEN LETTER TO
## HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

We the undersigned **BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR) Employees** would like to appeal to your Excellency's magnanimity to consider giving **Ms. Norma L. Lipana** a permanent appointment as **BIR Deputy Commissioner** prior to her compulsory retirement on February 18, 2007.

Ms. Lipana is a CESO IV eligible and a Certified Public Accountant and she rose from the rank, serving the Bureau for 41 years. Presently she is OIC BIR Deputy Commissioner, she has been holding her present position since April 2003.

It is our humble and honest belief that said permanent appointment is long overdue and would be a fitting recognition of her dedicated and meritorious service as **OIC Deputy Commissioner for three (3) long years.**

Undeniably, the success of BIR in implementing its rules and executing its mandated duties can be in a great part attributed to the strength and quality of its workforce. To this, we commend our **well-loved** OIC Deputy Commissioner Ms. Lipana, for giving her best in improving the workforce productivity of BIR by ensuring commitment of its personnel who are equipped with skills more than adequate to meet the demands of the work. The BIR through her able leadership remains steadfast to its call, despite continuing challenge.

Ms. Lipana is indeed a worthy public servant who deserves a permanent appointment as Deputy Commissioner of BIR. Her co-workers and peers look up to her not only as a very competent and effective manager but, at the same time, a compassionate and concerned leader.

Mrs. President, we the undersigned believe that under your leadership, this administration adheres to the highest ideals of merit promotion in the Civil Service, and not by political patronage.

A permanent appointment of Ms. Norma L. Lipana to the position of BIR Deputy Commissioner would be her just reward for her dedication and long years of selfless service in the organization. This would likewise serve as a morale booster to the rest of the BIR rank and file and erase the doubts in our hearts and minds that there is "political" reason why up to now Ms. LIPANA is still OIC Deputy Commissioner, despite holding that position for three (3) long years although she really deserves to be appointed as permanent Deputy Commissioner.

Under the law, Ms. Lipana is barred from being promoted six (6) months prior to her compulsory retirement. Hence, Mrs. President we appeal to your benevolent heart that you will give preferential attention to our urgent appeal and **appoint Ms. Lipana as permanent BIR Deputy Commissioner on or before August 17, 2006.**

Accept our wholehearted gratitude in advance our esteemed President, and we pray that with God's limitless grace, all your efforts for our people, and for our country will be crowned with success.

**SIGNED BY**
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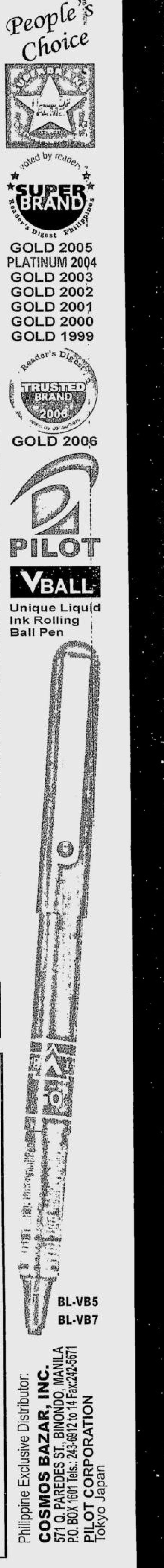
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# Aussie church blames gov't for 'serial' killings

From page A1

The third largest Christian denomination in Australia released a report in Canberra on its inquiry into the deaths over the last two years of 14 clergy and members of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

But Philippine Ambassador to Australia Ernesto de Leon denied the allegation.

### Palparan 'death squad'

Corpuz said Rivera belonged to what is now known as the "Pamalakaya 13," a group that blocked the use by the Navotas city government of a dump in Barangay Tanza in Obando.

Senior Insp. Rizalito Andaya, chief of the Obando police, confirmed the information.

In Manila, Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., head of the Philippine National Police's Task Force Usig, said he had ordered the local police "to get to the bottom of the case, solve it and arrest those responsible for the killings."

The task force is the special PNP unit formed to look into the political killings.

But Corpuz said Pamalakaya suspected the "death squad" of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, as being behind the murder of Rivera.

### Witch-hunt

Pamalakaya said in a statement that referring the case to Task Force Usig would just be "a waste of time."

"The brutal murder of Rivera and the ongoing witch-hunt of other leaders of Pamalakaya in the coastal towns of Bulacan—Obando, Bulacan, Malolos, Paombong, Hagonoy and Calumpit—are Palparan's response to the group's political decisiveness to bring [him] to court," Pamalakaya said.

It said the house of another Pamalakaya-Obando leader, Sonny de Armas, had been marked "X," supposedly by military agents in the village.

On July 21, Pamalakaya filed a P20-million libel suit against Palparan for branding the fisherfolk alliance and the party-list group Anakpawis as organizations similar to the communist New People's Army. The suit was filed in the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

Palparan has denied involvement in the murder of leftist activists in Central Luzon.

### Serial killings

In Canberra, the church report found that no one had been charged in any of the murders, and that evidence in all the deaths suggested the involvement of the Philippine police and military.

"The 14 cases of murder and summary execution outlined in this report suggest the use of serial killings and systematic violence by the Philippine military and the police to create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation," the report said.

"That faithful and nonviolent Christians are the target of such sustained violence amounts to an organized regime of Christian persecution with, at the very least, the tacit approval of the Philippine government," it said.

But Ambassador De Leon denied his government had given tacit support to the killers, and said the report would be investigated.

### Strafed, shot at

In Kalinga, the gate of the house of lawyer Warren Luyaben, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Kalinga, was strafed on Tuesday night.

Reports from the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA) said Luyaben had been handling cases of harassment filed against Supt. Pedro Ramos, Kalinga police director.

On Tuesday, a relative of slain Bayan Muna coordinator Alice Omengan-Claver in Kalinga was shot but was not hurt.

The CHRA said Robel Serzo, a resident of Barangay Appas and a relative of Claver's, was entering his house in the capital town of Tabuk when a man aboard a motorcycle shot at him but missed. *With reports from AP; Desiree Caluza and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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# Palace, PNP: What about killings by NPA?

From page A1

or were at least tolerant of the killings.

But the President's spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, said AI's "blanket accusations" were unfair, and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita expressed disappointment that Ms Arroyo's efforts to solve the killings had gone unappreciated.

### Blanket accusations

"We acknowledge the concerns of [AI], but its blanket accusations against the whole administration are not fair. We want to stress that the government does not tolerate and is not taking the problem lightly, as what AI is trying to project," Bunye said in a statement.

### What about CPP-NPA?

The Philippine National Police hewed to Ermita's line that AI should also look into the executions within the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

"They are appealing to the government to stop the killings, but I think they should also direct their call to the CPP-NPA," said the head of Task Force Usig, Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr.

He added: "What about the killings that are attributed to the CPP and documented by the PNP? What about the cases filed [against NPA members]?

### Both sides

"They should employ the same standard. If they are calling for the government to stop these senseless killings, then the CPP-NPA should also be called upon to halt their hostilities, raids, ambuscades. It seems [AI] is [turning] a blind eye to these activities."

Razon was referring to the recent rebel attacks on the Matnog police station in Bicol and on the San Agustin police station in Surigao del Sur, where a number of cops were killed and wounded.

But he clarified that his remarks were based on media accounts of the AI report, which he had yet to read at press time.

He also said that if the AI had actually looked into the political killings, it "should have talked to both sides."

### 'Undemocratic society'

Extrajudicial killings are "a sign of an undemocratic society" and President Arroyo's administration should prevent such crimes regardless of a victim's political affiliation, according to Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, the vice president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

"It's a stain on the public authority themselves that they can't contain [the killings] for the sake of peace and order," Ledesma, the archbishop of Cagayan de Oro, told the Church-run Radio Veritas.

### Safeguard reputation

Archbishop Ledesma said that after being told of the extent and implications of the continuing killing of mostly militant activists, the government should now try to "safeguard" its reputation in upholding human rights.

"We can't really stand upright and say that we are for human rights [while] these extrajudicial killings are taking place in our society," he said.

Ledesma urged authorities to prevent such killings without regard to the political affiliation of the victims.

"Extrajudicial killings ... should not continue and should not be tolerated in a civilized society," he said.

### Respect dissent

The CBCP president, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, had earlier condemned the killings, saying it was "not right" that people were being killed on the basis of "different political beliefs" or the suspicion "of being subversive or of plotting against the government."

"We are concerned not only for the victims, who have not been or are not given a chance to defend themselves in court, but also for their immediate families suddenly and unhappily left orphans," Lagdameo said.

Ledesma also said "the freedom of public dissent should be respected in a democratic system."

### What GMA has done

Bunye said Ms Arroyo had openly denounced the killings, pressured law enforcement agencies to solve 10 cases within 10 weeks, and announced a plan to appoint a former Supreme Court justice to head an independent commission to look into the murders.

"These are solid proof of our determination to prevent, deter and resolve these dastardly acts," Bunye said, adding that the job could "not be done overnight."

Ermita told reporters that while Malacañang might appear to be "defensive," what it was saying was: "It's not correct that just because there are reports and figures of killings, it's like the administration is doing nothing and tolerating these."

### Look at another angle

He said the AI should also examine another angle, particularly what the authorities think was the result of a purge by the communists of their own ranks.

According to Ermita, claims that the government was behind the killings was "a propaganda line" similar to the accusations made by AI in the 1970s against the Marcos regime, when he was still a military colonel.

He also said that despite the AI report, the government would continue its all-out war against communist insurgents.

### Palparan commended

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz commended the controversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan for his tactics, specifically putting up military checkpoints and demanding *cedulas* or residence certificates from residents of Nueva Ecija and Bulacan. (*Related story on Page A1*)

Cruz said Palparan's tactics had made it more compelling for the government to adopt a national ID system.

He clarified that the demand for *cedulas* was being made only at checkpoints and not house-to-house, as had been reported.

"No member of AI ever approached Task Force Usig or the PNP," he said.

### Cooperation urged

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno urged AI to convince militant groups to cooperate with Task Force Usig instead of criticizing government efforts.

Puno also said there was no need for an independent body to look into the killings.

"We are happy with Task Force Usig's work in spite of the lack of cooperation from party-list and militant groups. We are skeptical of instant experts on our problems who go before the media criticizing us and then leave," he told the INQUIRER.

### 'One-sided'

Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, chief of the Armed Forces' Public Information Office, complained that AI's investigation did not involve the military.

"To pinpoint outright that [the killings were] perpetrated by the government, well, I think it's unfair. Did they (AI members) ask anyone from the government side?" said Bacarro.

"They have been in the country for just a few days. How can they say outright that the government is the perpetrator? [They] immediately blame the government [for the killings]. They only investigated one group. So outright you can conclude that it's one-sided," he said.

Bacarro reiterated the AFP's official position that anyone crying military abuse should file charges in court.

"As we've been saying, we have a legal system, we have our legal processes. If there is evidence that would prove that indeed our men are the ones who perpetrated all of these killings, kidnappings, I urge them to file a complaint. Let the legal processes work," he said.

But he admitted that no supposed victim had dared come forward to file a complaint against a soldier or a military agent.

In Naga City, Maj. Gen. Alexander Yano, commander of the AFP's Southern Luzon Command, rejected the AI recommendation that the Philippine government seek the expertise of the United Nations' special mechanisms to look into the political killings.

"This is an internal problem and we don't want to internationalize it," he said.

Yano also rejected the formation of an independent investigating body, saying this would be vulnerable to infiltration by front organizations of the CPP-NPA.

"Imagine, we will be investigated by the very enemies we are pursuing," he said. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora in Manila; Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

### IN THE KNOW

## How Amnesty International started

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) is a worldwide movement that seeks to prevent and end abuse of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination.

AI started more than four decades ago, when British lawyer Peter Benenson wrote the newspaper The Observer to call for an international protest to aid two Portuguese students who had been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for raising a toast to freedom.

Benenson's letter led the paper to launch a yearlong campaign—"Appeal for Amnesty 1961"—against the imprisonment of people for their political or religious beliefs.

With public support, the campaign became a permanent international movement that sent delegations to four countries and took up 210 cases within a year.

As AI grew, it began helping not just "prisoners of conscience" but also other victims of human rights abuses, such as torture, execution and forced disappearance. It also sought to fight impunity "by working to ensure that perpetrators of such abuses are brought to justice."

For its efforts, AI was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977, and the United Nations Human Rights Award in 1978.

According to its website, AI is "independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion," does not solicit or accept money from governments, and depends on donations from the public and the contributions of its more than 1.8 million members and supporters in over 150 countries and territories.

In the 1980s, AI Pilipinas was formed by Sammy Matunog and Ed Garcia, who have worked with AI's international secretariat. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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# *Senators: A black eye*

SENATORS SAID THE AI REPORT had further eroded the Philippines' moral standing before the world.

"It is indeed an embarrassment, a black eye," particularly in light of the Philippines' membership in the recently formed Human Rights Council of the United Nations, Sen. Franklin Drilon said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said the lack of credible government measures to solve the killings bolstered the international perception of a dismal human rights situation in the country.

"I am sad because it is the whole country that is put on the block. I think it is the government's obligation to take appropriate measures to show the world that we are not a nation of human rights violators," he said.

Biazon said there had been no credible government effort to stop the killings or the rights violations.

He pointed out that the AFP intelligence agents behind the illegal arrest and torture of five supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada had yet to be punished.

### Partisan lines

At the House, reactions to the AI report strictly followed partisan lines, with the administration camp describing it as premature, biased and unjust, and the opposition saying it was "a slap on the face" of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Speaking for the House committee on national defense, Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon said it was "a shame" on AI's part to "not even take cognizance of the President's actions to probe and resolve the killings."

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said: "Tracing the killings to [Ms Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency] and the all-out war against communist insurgents perfectly showed that the [killings] are indeed a policy of the regime."

But Speaker Jose de Venecia said some aspects of the report had "some basis," although he called for a "full, balanced and comprehensive report."

### Dialogues

De Venecia made the admission to Sen. Alain Destehe of Belgium, International Criminal Court (ICC) juror Akua Kuenyehia of Ghana, and other delegates of the international parliamentarians' group who called on him at the House yesterday.

The Speaker said AI should hold dialogues with the military and police on the killings.

"These dialogues would be a prelude to a possible ratification by the Philippine Senate of the [Rome statute recognizing the ICC]," he said.

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# Hunt for Reds kills night life in San Jose

From page A1

A reason for the restriction of movement at night is the enforcement of curfew hours in the villages.

Lt. Col. Jose Kakilala, chief of the 48th Infantry Battalion operating in the province, said barangay officials, not the military, imposed and enforced the curfew.

In several barangays, visitors are required by the military to sign in their registry book and indicate the people they want to see and why they are visiting them, Bumanlag said.

He said he noticed fewer tricycles plying at night. From 2,000 tricycles that used to operate in various areas in the city at night, the number was observed to have gone down to half.

"*Kakaunti po ang pasahero. At saka mahirap na rin po kaming gabihin sa pag-uwi* (Passengers are few and going home late is difficult)," a tricycle driver said.

Rice mill owners, during the forum, said their workers who come from different barangays in the city refused to do overtime work at night. They said these workers were afraid of being questioned by soldiers.

### 'Cedula'

Reports said barangay chairs in San Jose and other towns in Nueva Ecija had been busy signing the community tax certificates (CTCs) or "*cedula*" of residents in their villages.

The signature of the village chief, it was learned, was an assurance that the holder is known to the official and a resident of the village.

Residents in the northern towns have been reportedly trooping to the treasurer's office or to their village's office to get CTCs.

Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the 7th Infantry Division, said the presentation of CTCs was not required by the military.

Palparan, in an earlier radio interview, also denied reports that soldiers were abusing people who would fail to present their CTCs.

"Of course, these (reports of abuses) are exaggerations. They were handiwork of the enemy to discredit us. Report to us any abuses of our soldiers and we will deal with them correspondingly," he said.

### AFP admission

In Manila, the Armed Forces leadership yesterday admitted for the first time that such a policy requiring residents in Nueva Ecija and Bulacan to produce a CTC was in place.

"That's part of the efforts of General Palparan's troops to prevent the NPA (New People's Army) from entering the barangays," Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, chief of the AFP Public Information Office, said.

"If you have a *cedula*, why fear?" Bacarro said.

### Continuous operations

Kakilala said the Army would not stop its special operations in 13 villages in San Jose amid the outcry against its identification system.

He said the proposed pullout had no basis. Reports of abuses committed by soldiers on residents who failed to show their cedula are "baseless and unfounded," he said.

"These are all black propaganda by leftist militant groups and the New People's Army," Kakilala told the INQUIRER by phone.

Among the punitive actions purportedly taken by soldiers are making the residents walk home in their underwear or forcing them to swallow expired *cedula*.

No such complaints have reached the offices of the mayor, barangay chairs or the court, according to Kakilala.

He denied that the military had imposed an ID system on all residents.

### Only for suspicious-looking

The document, he said, was "only demanded in instances when there are suspicious-looking persons in the villages."

"The *cedula* is asked because it is countersigned by barangay officials. That helps us establish if a resident really belongs to the community or is a rebel in transit," he said.

"*May mga sinisita kami, tinatanong kung taga-saan, sinasamahan hanggang sa bahay* (We check on some people, ask them where they live and go with them to the house they claimed to be theirs to be able to verify if they are legitimate residents)," he said.

Kakilala also said the 48th IB had been in the area since November last year.

The Army's special operations teams, he said, were working in Barangays Kaliwanagan, Villa Marina, Culaylay, San Agustin, Villa Joson, Porais, Pinili, Palestina, Tayabo, Kita-kita, Malasin, Manicla, Sto. Niño 1st.

San Jose has 38 villages and is situated in the middle of Nueva Ecija towns that the military has deemed to be "insurgency-affected." These are Lupao, Carranglan, Pantabangan, Rizal and Bongabon.

### Community meetings

Asked what soldiers do in the villages, Kakilala said: "We conduct census and *pulong-pulong* (community meetings) to enlighten the people of the ills of communism and win back the NPA armed elements and its organized mass base in the barangays so that they will rejoin the mainstream of society." *With reports from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Dona Z. Pazzibugan in Manila*

# German bank account, Ferrari, video of ballot switching

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE EVIDENCE STUFFED IN SEVEN "balikbayan" boxes allegedly includes a German bank account with millions of dollars, papers showing a Ferrari sports car bought with fertilizer funds and a video of ballot switching during the 2004 presidential election.

The House minority seeking the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday gave a snapshot of what the boxes contained to support charges against her ranging from culpable violation of the constitution to corruption.

The dominant administration allies blocked the opposition effort to show that its complaint was sufficient in substance to bring the charges to trial in the Senate.

"We can end this political crisis and bring peace to the country. Let us open the boxes and see if there is evidence or not," House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano told the justice committee hearing the impeachment complaint.

"If there is none, you can do whatever you want with us. You can have us resign and work for free for the President. I'll even volunteer to be her bodyguard," he added.

Cayetano disputed administration claims that the evidence was recycled "trash."

"Is a local bank account with hundreds of millions of pesos trash? What about a German bank with hundreds of millions of dollars—not pesos—and with the account number 87-570-23030-32100- 62771571?" Cayetano said.

"There's footage not only of eyewitnesses but people who actually participated and are willing to testify in the switching of election returns," he added.

Cayetano also said that the evidence included documents "showing the money trail of the multi-billion fertilizer scam."

"There are even the fruits of the crime, if we want to see them (like) those beautiful cars. There's a Ferrari which was bought instead of fertilizers. Will that Ferrari help our farmers grow rice or other crops?" he said.

"There are audio and video tapes. Checks with check numbers and sworn testimonies in reference to them. They're complete. This is not a bluff," he said.

Cayetano also urged the committee to vote that the impeachment complaint against Ms. Arroyo was sufficient in substance.

"Under the rules of impeachment, (if we) vote that (it's sufficient in) substance, the President must answer under oath. Even if we haven't presented our evidence, the President must answer," he said.

Speaker Jose De Venecia said the decision of the justice committee on the substance of the complaint would be taken up by the entire House next week.

"Whoever loses still has enough time to go to the plenary on Tuesday for the presentation of the committee report," De Venecia said. "But the vote here will already be indicative of the vote on Tuesday," emphasizing that the minority did not have the numbers to bring the complaint to a formal trial.

Asked if he thought that the complaint was sufficient in substance after hearing the debate yesterday, De Venecia said: "It appears that there's none."

TAKOT,
AYAW SUMAGOT.
KASI GUILTY?

BEFORE their fall, proimpeachment congressmen are still in smiles at the session hall after a brief recess of the hearing of the committee on justice. JOAN BONDOC

# House kills impeach bid; GMA allies say case 'dead on arrival'

From page A1

the complaint was sufficient in substance was like a eulogy.

"What we heard from its endorsers were funeral orations," said Lagman, noting that the initiative had been destined to fail not only because the complainants and their allies lack numbers "but principally because the complaint itself manifestly lacks sufficiency in substance."

## Impeach complaint

The complaint accused Ms Arroyo of culpable violation of the Constitution, graft and corruption and grave abuse of authority in connection with 22 charges that included stealing the 2004 election, receiving illegal gambling payoffs, human rights abuses and political killings. She has denied any wrongdoing.

Before the vote could take place, Rep. Rodolfo Antonino stood up and slammed Escudero for dishing out "propaganda" and accusing him of "hypocrisy."

Proimpeachment supporters then started waving white handkerchiefs and envelopes to show that the administration congressmen had been bought. Jeers also echoed from the side of administration supporters clad in yellow shirts.

Rep. Simeon Datumanong, the committee chair, suspended the hearing at 5:40 p.m., and ordered the members to continue the proceedings in the smaller Andaya Hall amid chants by the opposition crowd of "Impeach Gloria!"

Although the hearing was suspended, opposition Representatives Darlene Antonino-Custodio and Alan Peter Cayetano took to the rostrum and insisted that the nationally televised proceedings continue inside the plenary hall.

"It's your allies who are rowdy," said Custodio, while Cayetano, the deputy minority leader, said that it was the majority that was walking out of the proceedings.

"The minority is ready to (end this) peacefully," he said. "We will stay. We won't walk out."

After an hourlong suspension, the hearing resumed and the crucial vote was taken.

## No sampling of evidence

Antonino said the opposition should stop complaining that the impeachment had become a "numbers game" because in reality the numbers should be in their favor as they were only required to get the signatures of one-third of the members of the House.

A similar impeachment attempt against the President was thrown out last year after the opposition failed to get the required one-third vote of the House membership.

In citing serious infirmities in the minority complaint, initiated by the Black and White Movement, Antonino said that the opposition had even failed to annex sampling of evidence to prove that the President had committed impeachable offenses.

"In short, what they have presented to us are mere allegations," Antonino said. "So what's there to talk about?"

Obviously, Antonino said, the opposition wanted the impeachment complaint to undergo lengthy discussions just for the media to feast on "but even among themselves, they know that the impeachment case is dead."

## 'Oozing with propaganda'

Lagman said that while the complaint was "oozing with propaganda, it is parched in substance; while it is replete with innuendos, it is destitute of ultimate facts; it has a surfeit of generalizations but a dearth of specifications; it is a recital of self-serving conclusions of facts and law, not a recital of facts constituting the offense charged and determinative of the jurisdiction of the committee."

Escudero said Ms Arroyo should be impeached for "miserably failing to protect the lives of citizens."

"It's painful for us to think that just because we did not attach annexes we can no longer prove that the President cheated," Escudero said. "If she is innocent, and we don't have proof as they say, what is she afraid of? We ask her to answer and explain simple questions answerable by yes or no."

## No refutation

On the claim that some offenses cited in the complaint were committed before the 2004 presidential election, Escudero said it would take only one offense to send the complaint to the Senate for trial.

Escudero pointed out that not one of the President's allies had tried to refute a single allegation in the complaint.

He said the impeachment process could never be a numbers game "because any member of the committee would have to admit that the process of impeachment is a mechanism which we can make ... the President accountable for her acts while in office."

"We ask a simple favor, a simple challenge to our colleagues. The evidence, the proof is there. If you say yes to sufficiency in substance, we can present evidence. If not ... it begs the question: Why refuse such an opportunity for the President to answer the questions?"

## Harsh judgment

Escudero said that history would judge the President harshly if she was not given a chance to explain her side.

"It's elementary: Let's allow the opening of the boxes, require the President to reply and then we vote. This is the first step if we want to move on from these issues and put an end to political bickering. A year after the (bungled impeachment try in 2005), the ghosts of the past continue to hound us. Don't you want to move on?"

Escudero was referring to the seven boxes of evidence the opposition brought to the House which would allegedly support its impeachment complaint.

# OFW flees Lebanon wearing her 'luggage'

From page A1

just before dawn out of her employer's home in war-battered Lebanon, walked past unsuspecting guards, and made her final dash to freedom—by employing a trick more associated with shoplifting.

The 33-year-old domestic helper wore three pairs of panties and two bras. She strapped on a third bra around her waist, and then concealed the resulting bulges by slipping into three layers of shirts.

For added provisions, she stuffed her toothbrush, a tube of toothpaste and deodorant in the pockets of her pants.

"By not carrying any bag," Puerto said, she pulled off her daring escape on Monday. After walking for about 30 minutes from her employer's home, she found a ride that eventually brought her to the evacuation site run by the Philippine Embassy in Beirut.

## 442 arrivals

The 26-year-old from Vigan, Ilocos Sur, was among 442 overseas Filipino workers from Lebanon who arrived in Manila yesterday afternoon.

"I know I'm not the only Filipino (maid) who escaped that way," she said, minutes after emerging from the humanitarian flight sponsored by the International Organization for Migration.

Puerto slipped out of the beach resort house outside Beirut around 5:30 a.m. on Aug. 14 while her employers were still asleep.

By then, she said, stories had spread about Filipino maids escaping their employers to repatriate. Security guards were alerted about Filipino women carrying luggage.

Puerto said she thought it was wise to put on multiple shirts and underwear instead.

## She asked permission

That she was "flat-chested" to begin with probably made those extra bras undetectable, she said with a giggle.

Puerto said he had properly asked permission to leave, but her employer—a certain Samar Samaja—said she could only go after paying back "$1,400 supposedly for the expenses they had for keeping me."

She was just on her fourth month in Jounieh, Lebanon, on a $150 monthly salary as a "DH."

Days after she reached the evacuation center, she said, her employer showed up and "had no choice" but to let Puerto go and hand over more of her personal belongings, passport, and work documents.

"But they still have my wallet, my watch, and some of my shoes," she grumbled.

Yesterday's wave of evacuees had its equal share of stories of joys and sorrows.

## One was disturbed

"Daisy," 22, of Ormoc City, arrived with both hands swelling and had to be brought to the clinic of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

She also showed signs of being "mentally disturbed," according to a staffer of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration who escorted Daisy to the doctor.

While Daisy was still at the Beirut evacuation center, "she would suddenly break into tears or run around" for no apparent reason, said Josephine Compania of Davao del Sur, a fellow worker who had taken pity on the maid.

Compania said word went around at the center that Daisy, when interviewed by embassy personnel, spoke vaguely of having been raped.

At the Naia clinic, Dr. Evener Candelaria managed to draw some answers from Daisy.

She would not tell what really happened to her hands, but confirmed that her employers had physically maltreated her, seized all her belongings, and left her penniless.

But when asked how exactly she had been hurt, she replied timidly: "I don't know."

## *She left Beirut to die at home*

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SHIRLEY BALAJADIA KNEW she was dying when she set foot at the Ninoy International Airport last week, a month after she left Lebanon.

"When we met her at the airport, she told us that she was ready to say goodbye since she already saw us," Balajadia's sister Annabel told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Balajadia died at the Ospital ng Makati on Tuesday night. According to her death certificate, she succumbed to thyrotoxic heart disease—not to war shock as earlier reported.

Annabel said her sister learned that she had goiter in November 2005, after a year of working in Beirut, Lebanon.

### Signs of distress

"She called up to tell us that she was sick and that she had to be operated on," Annabel said in Filipino. Three weeks later, Balajadia called again and told her family that oral medication had cured her goiter.

Balajadia left Beirut a week before the war between Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants began. She was off-loaded in Bahrain after she reportedly became violent and showed signs of distress while on flight.

She arrived in the Philippines on Aug. 11. The next day, she was rushed to the hospital after complaining of having difficulty breathing. She was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit at around 10 p.m. Tuesday where she slipped into a coma, Annabel said.

At the halfway house that the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration office had temporarily set up for the hundreds of Filipinos who fled Lebanon, Balajadia had been happy to be with her two children, aged 6 and 8.

In between her shivering spells, Balajadia also had repeatedly told Annabel and their mother to take good care of her children.

"She was insistent on that. She was really ready to go," she said, adding that in their sorrow, they would take consolation on the few days they had spent with her.

Balajadia's remains were brought to her hometown in Tarlac City yesterday afternoon.

HOME FOR GOOD: OFW Sheerly Balajadia was wheeled at the Naia upon her arrival on Friday from Lebanon. She died on Tuesday at the Ospital ng Makati of thyrotoxic heart disease. JESS YUSON

# It's gotta be

# Shakey's®

After more than 30 years,
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Great taste, great variety and great value bring people closer together.
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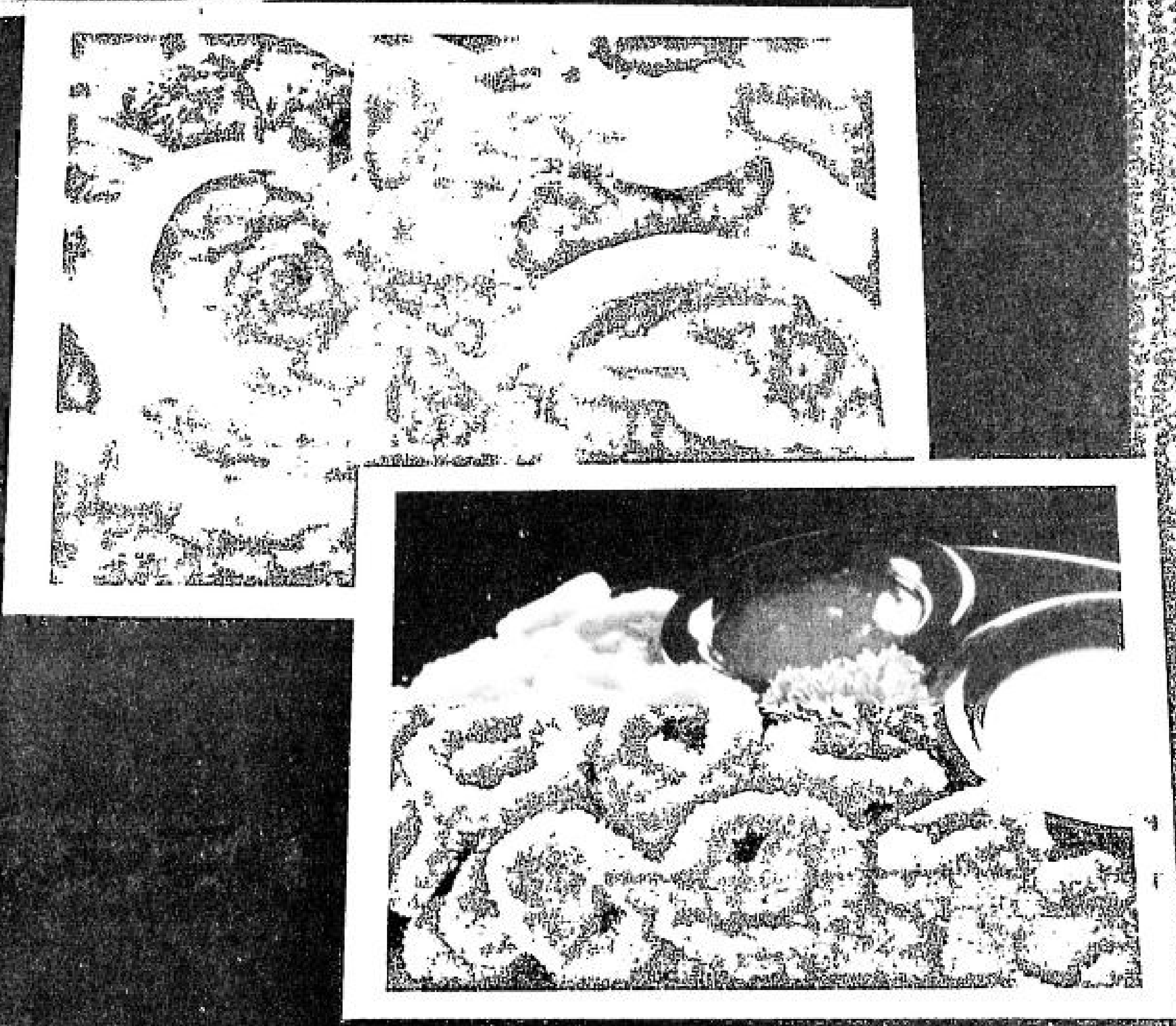

## It's gotta be the food.

Shakey's is famous for its array of well-loved food products. Thin Crust Pizzas like the *Manager's Choice* and *Friday's Special*, trademarked *Chick N Chips, Mojos, & Bunch-of-Lunch* and its yummy *Hot Hero Sandwiches* are constant cravings of many people. Shakey's continuously adds new quality food offerings like:

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Pizzanatic Card
It's gotta be
Shakey's

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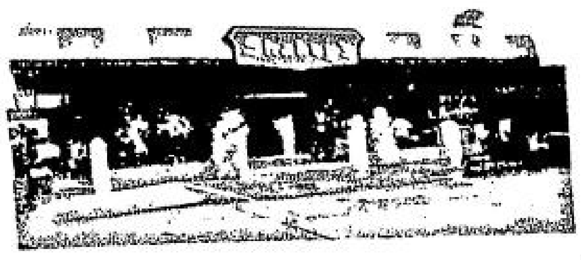
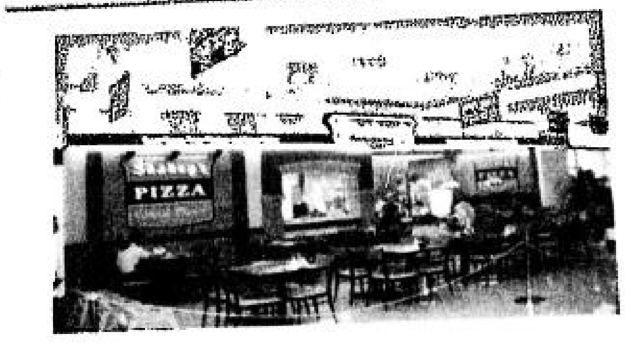

PTT Ortigas Extension

JTC Mall, Vigan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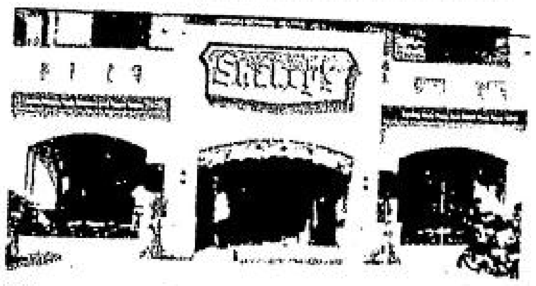
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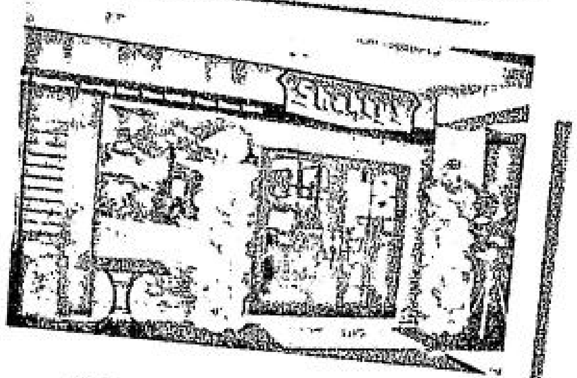
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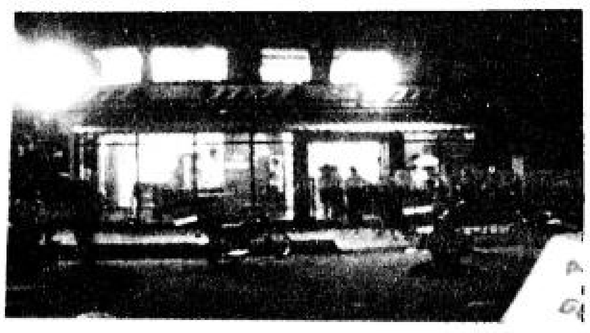
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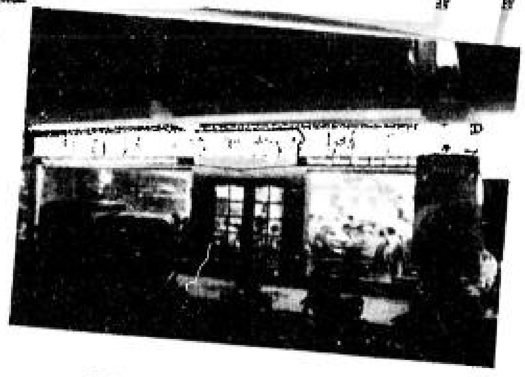
ABC Mall, Angono

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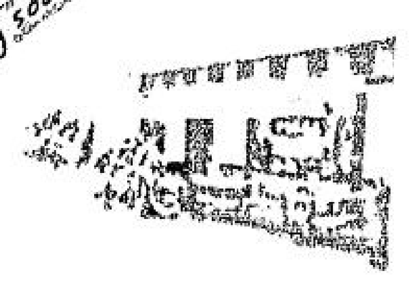
Opening soon!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ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 21 No. 250
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
OPINION
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

# Reign of terror

**EDITORIAL**

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S FAVORITE anti-communist fighter must have run out of sitting ducks; now he has set his men loose on the general population. Already blamed for the murder of several leftist activists, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan and the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division, which he commands, are now being accused of subjecting hapless civilians to unjust impositions and various forms of indignities and humiliation.

In several Nueva Ecija towns, thousands of residents have been rushing to buy community tax certificates or *cedulas,* not out of civic duty but out of fear. And they have very good reason to be afraid. For a growing number of plain citizens, the failure to produce the document upon demand by Palparan's men has led to some very unpleasant consequences. Some luckier folks just had to bear the inconvenience of being interrogated at some length to make sure they were not rebels or rebel sympathizers. However, one man was forced to walk home in his underwear after he could not show his cedula to soldiers manning a checkpoint. A barangay chair who produced a certificate issued last year was ordered to eat the piece of paper. A female vendor who made the same mistake suffered a similar fate. When a female beggar asked some soldiers why she needed a cedula, one of them silenced her with blows to her face and stomach.

The mindless violence against ordinary people and the violation of their human rights don't end there. Some barangay folks have complained that soldiers had forced their way into their homes, searching for rebels. Where they found none, they counted the plates, and woe to those who had more than the number of family members: to Palparan's men, keeping so many plates could only mean they were feeding communists.

In at least one barangay in Pampanga, soldiers forced some Aetas to confess to being communist sympathizers, if not rebels, themselves. Then the soldiers made them go around the barangay with a note hanging from their necks saying, "*Sumuko na ako.*"

It seems that the only thing Palparan's men haven't done yet is to put straw baskets over some people's head and force them to point out the communists in their communities. Even so, they have already succeeded immensely in putting the fear of the military in the hearts of the people they have dealt with. "It's like martial law here," said one resident of San Jose City in Nueva Ecija. "We are afraid," said another. "They make no distinction between men and women, young and old." Like an army of occupation. Or the Japanese Kempetai.

But Palparan is unrepentant and unapologetic about all these abuses. In fact, he has vowed to unleash more of the same and he has expanded the military's hit list. He has warned businessmen who have been paying the so-called "revolutionary taxes" to the New People's Army to come forward and confess their sin or face the military's wrath. Those who do not heed his call would be declared as "our enemy."

If civilians are found giving shelter to rebels, Palparan said, they would also be shot. "My order to my soldiers is that if they are certain that there are armed rebels in a house or yard, shoot them. It would just be too bad if civilians are killed in the process. We are sorry if you are killed in the crossfire."

Sorry as somebody was for calling "Garci," it would seem. For Palparan is not about to mend his ways. "I will finish them off," he has said, referring to the NPA. And even after his retirement, he would continue "inspiring the soldiers to hasten their work to win the minds of the people."

How he is going to do that is already a difficult question, but how his soldiers can do it is even more difficult to answer. For how do you win the minds of people who cower in fear? How do you win the hearts of people who are being abused and humiliated and shot on mere suspicion of harboring rebels or being sympathetic to them? How do you win over to the government's side a community that is terrorized by the soldiers who are sworn to protect them?

This is the President's hero, the officer she singled out for praise in her most important address to the Filipino people, presiding over the reign of terror in parts of Central Luzon. But time is on the people's side; Palparan will retire in September. Maybe then, the administration can rethink its anti-insurgency campaign before people start tearing up their cedulas and declaring another revolt against oppression.

*Publisher* **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
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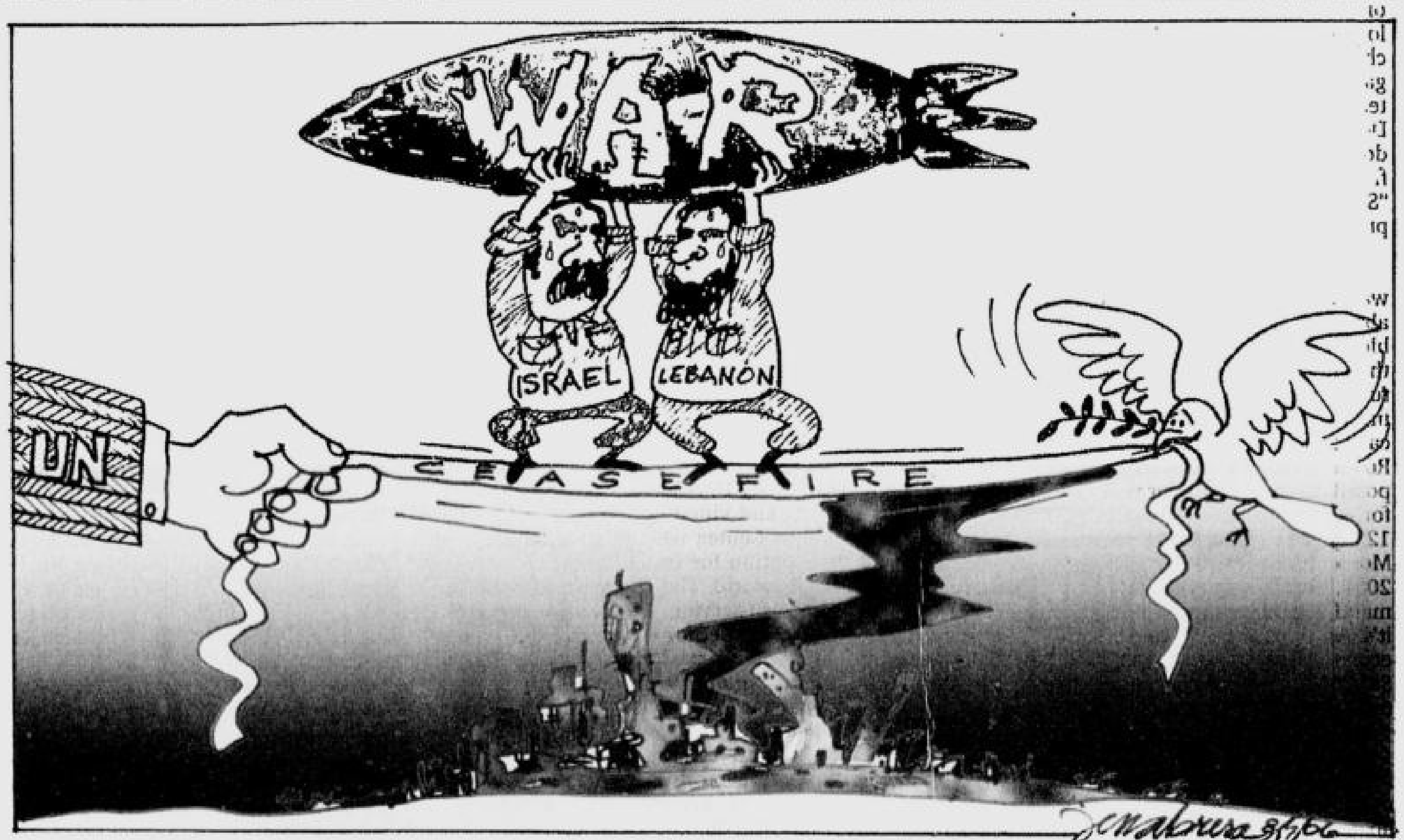


# The one common thing

**VIEWPOINT**

*Juan L. Mercado*

"WHETHER WHARTON-BRED OR 'NO-READ-no-write,' Filipinos share one common item in our everyday existence: rice," writes the eminent rural sociologist Gelia T. Castillo in what's probably the most lucid summary of scientific studies, over the last 30 years, on a cereal that can make or break Presidents.

"Rice In Our Life: A Review of Philippine Studies" follows Castillo's earlier book, "All In A Grain of Rice," on the first high-yielding varieties that redrew farms worldwide. "Rice In Our Life" fits, within a comprehensive framework, reports of changes sweeping through rice farms. There is a bonus: jargon-free language that maintains scientific rigor.

Rice was sown on India's Deccan plateau a thousand years before Christ. Between 6000 B.C. and 400 A.D., palay turned up in Cagayan. Rice terraces in Ifugao, Mauban, Majayjay, Lukban and Tayabas were found.

Three centuries later, the Ogilvy and Mather Philippines study "Please Pass The Rice" reported 86 percent of Filipinos deemed a meal proper only if it had rice. Thus, McDonald's and Jollibee now have rice on their menus. Even our put-down sayings revolve around rice: *Marami ka pang bigas na kakainin.* (You still have to eat a lot of rice.)

Between 1838 and 1842, we exported surplus rice to Canton and Whampoa in China. But rice supply here is a saga of "occasional bumps, gilded by small tokens of exports and regular deep troughs of shortages, filled with tall mounds of growing imports."

Over 30 reasons, laced with myths, are offered for this lackluster performance. Castillo punctures the myth that we trained Vietnamese and Thais at the UP College of Agriculture and applying Los Baños knowledge, succeeded so well, they now sell us rice.

Rice hectarage here stagnated. Thailand and Vietnam expanded their fields, improved yields, trimmed labor costs. Filipino farmers spend P5.71 to produce a kilo of paddy to the Vietnamese's P2.33. And they have few typhoons. Filipino farmers are more realistic. "Weather-weather *lang 'yan*, they say."

But one thing sets us apart: The denominator or total population in the rice self-sufficiency equation grows faster here. Thus, "rice self-sufficiency is an upwardly moving target. (It) is always out of reach even as we calculate that we are only three percent short."

Seared "deep in the psyche of Filipino politicians are global food crises ... when we could not find rice even if we had the money to buy it." China's rich harvests are the lowest in 12 years. Exporting countries race to fill China's rice bowl. Buyers "come to my house even before I start planting," a Thai farmer says.

Relying on international markets is too risky. "We should do more to edge closer to 100 percent but not beat our breasts if we fall short. Politicians do not produce rice. Farmers do," Castillo writes.

There are some things going for that. Under the Agrarian Reform Program, the majority of our farmers have broken loose from onerous share tenancy, although remnants fester in the Ilocos. Agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) have lower poverty incidence than non-ARBs. They also have higher education, smaller household size, irrigated land and access to credit. "New tenure arrangements have emerged."

In shifting from share tenancy to leasehold or ownership, "farmers captured the yield gain from the new technology." In the process, land reform beneficiaries transformed themselves from tillers of the land to the non-farm middle class.

Despite this positive impact, poverty incidence remains high, even among ARBs (more than 50 percent). Rice consumption still falls short of what nutritionists peg as the "Recommended Daily Allowance."

Changes are recasting farming families. Except in remote upland areas, exchange labor has gone out of style. Family labor has also declined. "Hired labor is the predominant way of getting things done in the farm." The farmer, who was the former tenant, now plays the "role of patron over the landless laborer."

The old pattern of landlord-tenant relationship has crumbled. There are now four social classes: large farmers, small farmers, agricultural laborers and the new kid on the block: non-farmworkers. "The agricultural ladder has closed. And rice farms are available only to those whose parents have rice farms."

Educational levels, in the village, are up. Land reform beneficiaries who invested in schooling, particularly college education, have a decided advantage. "Parents who give schooling to daughters and land to sons found that their daughters derive more income (from jobs) than their sons do (from their land)."

Urban sprawl is burying rice land in asphalt and changing protagonists. "In the past, it was landlord versus tenants. Now, it is farmers versus real estate developers. Land prices have skyrocketed. "The real estate developer has a powerful argument .... A 3-hectare rice land can house hundreds of urban families. But, it can only provide livelihood for one family."

A substantial rice science infrastructure is in place. It ranges from reputable and decentralized research and development systems to strong institutions, like PhilRice. They've buttressed increases in productivity. And they'll be crucial for cobbling provincial-based rather than centralized programs.

"The integrity of rice science deserves to be respected so the culture of rice will rise above the 'culture of politics,'" Castillo insists. "Whether rich or poor, in a very unequal society like ours, rice is the one thing we have in common."

* * *

*E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph*

# Elegy

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

SOME TRAGEDIES LEAVE YOU WITHOUT words. You just keep asking "Why?" Knowing there are no answers out there, finding little comfort in the thought, or platitude, heaven wanted it that way.

Such a tragedy was the deaths of Hazel Recheta-Calimag, Arnel Guiao and Ismael "Maeng" Cabugayan before the sun fell last Sunday. All worked for ABC-5. Hazel was a reporter, Arnel was a cameraman, and Maeng was a driver. They were coming back to Manila after burrowing for a week in Albay to cover the impending explosion of Mayon Volcano. Their replacements had arrived that morning, and they had left the shadow of the mountain shortly after lunch in a light and cheerful mood. Why wouldn't they? They were going home with *pasalubong* of *pili* and other Bicol stuff for their loved ones, one of the small perks of living the itinerant life of media workers.

It was in Pamplona, the town next to Naga City going Manila, where it happened. I know the place, I've driven there many times. It's a pleasant part of Camarines Sur, full of lush greenery, something you see few and far between in the North Expressway, the sides of the road dotted with makeshift stands selling "Formosa" pineapples. The road itself is made of concrete that stretches straight ahead with very few curves.

It was a pleasant afternoon when Hazel, Arnel and Maeng got there. It had been drizzling, but the road wasn't wet. It was well before sunset and life went on as lazily in that part of the world on a late Sunday afternoon as it had done for as long as God and the folk of Pamplona could remember.

It was the last thing the three would see on earth.

There are several versions of the story: It happened on a lonely stretch there and nobody could say for sure what took place. The common thread seems to be that one of the tires in the Nissan Frontier the ABC crew was driving blew up, causing the driver to lose control of the wheel. Some say he was overtaking when it happened, others say he merely tried to avoid plowing into whatever lay on the right side of the road by swerving left. Whatever it was, the vehicle fell directly in the path of an oncoming bus. The impact of the collision drove the Nissan clear underneath the bus, killing the three probably instantly. Or at least our collective grief demands from heaven that they died instantly, without one tiny crack of time to feel pain.

I knew Hazel well—having been lending a helping hand to ABC-5 for some months now—but barely knew the other two. Arnel and Maeng I must have seen a few times in the covered parking lot of ABC-5, but never got to talk to them. Hazel I knew to take things in stride. She was one of the toiling media practitioners who were content to do their jobs as best they could. She got assigned to cover a story in any beat, she did it without fuss. She took life as life dealt it. She waited 14 years to have a child, reconciling herself to the often frugal ways of Providence until Providence finally gave generously. She gave birth to a girl a year ago. She was proud of her daughter. More than anything in this world, her daughter gave her a reason to live. She was 37 when she died last Sunday.

She got along very well with the world while she lived. The media people that flocked at her wake last Monday night didn't just go there to express solidarity with a kindred spirit or fallen comrade, they went there to say a tearful goodbye to a friend. What drove them there wasn't just the thought that it might have been them lying there but for a strange twist of fate, it was also the incomprehensible reality that someone they had laughed and cried with was in that state. Truly, you have to ask of heaven why.

Edward Navarrete and Erel Cabatbat, a news manager and reporter of ABC-5, would tell me later they got the hardest assignments of their lives that Sunday evening. It was to tell the families of Arnel and Maeng their husbands and fathers would not be coming home that night. Or ever. Erel would say: "Assign me to cover the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, assign me to cover the anti-NPA war in Luzon, I'd sooner do that—no, I'd volunteer for that—than go through that night all over again." Arnel was 42 years old and Maeng 37. They were the breadwinners of their families. Arnel left two daughters (22 and 15) and a son (14) while Maeng left a boy (13) and girl (6). Unable to comprehend the news, Maeng's 6-year-old kept asking, so when was her *tatay* coming home, he promised to be back that day.

There were the cares of the living to compound the tears for the dead. Edward would tell me Maeng's wife was so stunned at the news, all she could blurt out after a long moment of speechlessness was, "*Paano na ang mga bata?*" ("What will happen to the kids?") Work benefits go only so far. It's an agonized cry that I can only hope will reach the ears of benefactors and school officials who might want to pitch scholarships in the direction of the kids. Life hasn't been kind to them, maybe some people can.

I don't know that deaths of this kind will ever yield any sense, but if we must extract some meaning from them, like oil from dead earth or gold from the pit of it, it is probably some appreciation for what journalists do. More than soldiers, they're the ones who risk life and limb, shuttling to and fro in cars, trains and planes, rushing in the direction of fire where everybody else is running away from it, to tell the truth about life, such as truth or life can be told. They're the ones who, when they die in the line of duty—never has that phrase sounded purer—evoke John Donne's words with special force: "Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind./ And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee."

# No tears for WTO?

### POLITICAL TIDBITS

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

DURING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of the Apec Business Advisory Council (ABAC) at the Mactan Shangri-La Hotel in Cebu recently, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on international competitiveness Roberto Romulo, also ABAC's founding chair and the Philippine chapter's chair, posed a query to the 200 delegates from around the world: "Why is there no tearing of hair over the recent suspension of the Doha Round in the World Trade Organization? Or does anyone really care?" Paraphrasing a passage from Shakespeare's "Julius Ceasar," he asked, "Should we bury Apec and WTO, or should we praise them?"

* * *

**The impression that this columnist gathered was that there's more than enough anxiety about the Doha Round's suspension and the bleak future of WTO. As the "Leaders" column of the Economist put it, the Doha debacle "constitutes the biggest threat yet to the post-war trading system." First, there's no telling whether it can still be revived. Its predecessor, the Uruguay Round, began in September 1986 and was supposed to be over in four years, but it dragged on for eight years until its signing by most of the 125 participating governments in Marakesh, Morocco. The Doha Round, launched in Qatar in 2001, was meant to help the world's poor by dismantling barriers and agricultural subsidies, but it's now stalled by the unwillingness of big economies, such as the European Union, United States, India, Brazil and some African countries, to compromise on those items.**

* * *

Many economists fear the death knell is tolling for the WTO, as some big economies succumb to more protectionism, instead of widening trade liberalization. Former President Fidel V. Ramos, speaking at the ABAC conference, also expressed concern that time is running out on the WTO. He pointed out that the "Trade Promotion Authority," given by the US Congress to President Bush to negotiate in the WTO without interference from the legislature, would expire next July. He said the Doha Round may be finally signed, but not by the world's largest economy and that, of course, could render the WTO inutile. Interestingly, Fred Bergsten, director of the Washington-based Institute for International Economics (who had to be awakened at 4 a.m. Sunday for the pre-arranged tele-conference with the Cebu group), hinted that the Bush administration may get an extension of this authority.

* * *

**With the indefinite suspension of Doha and WTO's precarious state, Asia-Pacific nations have refocused their attention on Apec, but the sentiment toward it is for the most part also lamentation. The Cebu meeting stirred a healthy debate among the speakers and Romulo warned of "fireworks." There were those, like Prof. Peter Drysdale of Australia's National University and Vinod Aggarwal of the Berkeley Apec Study Center, who defended Apec as still the best option for trade liberalization in our part of the world. They denounced the "explosion" of self-serving free trade agreements (FTAs) within Apec for weakening the organization. In fact, Aggarwal proposed a 180-day FTA moratorium among Apec countries.**

**But Hernan Somerville, the tough-talking Chilean banker who chaired ABAC in 2004, said his country would never countenance a moratorium. Timothy Ong, chair of the Asia Inc. Forum of Brunei, asserted that FTAs showed "hypocrisy" in Apec, for they are in reality "PTAs" (preferential trade agreements) which would be beneficial to the two contracting economies, but harmful to others.**

**UNCTAD Secretary General Supachai Panitchpakdi warned that it could take another 10 years for the Doha Round to finish. In the interim, there would be a lot of backsliding among nations. Most speakers agreed that Apec should help pressure the WTO to resume the Doha negotiations, but to be successful, Apec ministers have to make their presence felt in Geneva, "and not just fly in for one and a half hours and then fly out again."**

* * *

The related issues of WTO's future, Apec's relevance and the need to put some order into the "spaghetti bowl" of proliferating FTAs remained unresolved at the conference, which ended Sunday with the airing of grievances that hopefully would be addressed even prior to the Summit of Apec Leaders this November in Hanoi. The delegates decided to leave it at that. In the evening, they surrendered to the fabled hospitality of Cebu. They were treated to an exquisite dinner and international music in the elegant cliff-side homes of Louie and Annie Aboitiz and Bobby and Marianne Aboitiz (the big delegation had to be split between those two homes and the Shangri-La Hotel). The Aboitizes, led by clan matriarch Josephine Aboitiz-Booth, came out in full force to entertain the visitors, who swooned over the lovely setting and the feast. "We took you here so you'll see how ordinary Filipinos live," cracked Romulo, and the delegates rolled their eyes upward.

The evening before, the delegates were also treated to heavenly singing by the Mandaue Children's Choir, which is fast giving the Loboc Children's Choir stiff competition, and the Quezon City Performing Arts of the QC government, which gets gifted children from marginalized sectors. Also singing to the guests was Sam Concepcion, who is best remembered as the young Jose Rizal in "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?" And finally, there was some rolling and shaking to the unforgettable music of The Spirit of '67. The delegates got to know what "Pinoy touch" is all about. Romulo and his team, led by his executive assistant Patricia Pascual, a graduate of the University of Manchester, deserve accolades for a very well-organized conference.

* * *

**Don't forget the One Town, One Product (OTOP) exhibit being staged by 37 Luzon provinces at the Megatrade Hall in Megamall. The exhibit opened yesterday and extends until Aug. 20. All kinds of goods and food items, many of them for export, can be purchased there. Come one, come all.**

# Tyre and Sidon

### HUMAN FACE

*Ma. Ceres P. Doyo*

TYRE AND SIDON. THE NAMES OF THESE TWO ancient biblical cities have been floating in my head since the fighting between Israel and the Hezbollah began a month ago. These two coastal cities in Lebanon, being among the places threatened by Israeli fire, are always shown on the war maps on TV.

These cities are mentioned in the Bible 14 times, always as a pair (like Sodom and Gomorrah) and in significant situations that they have a way of remaining in one's subconscious. In mine, at least. But since I'm no Bible scholar, I couldn't easily find where in the Bible they're mentioned.

Then last week, at the height of the Middle East crisis, the twin names popped up in the INQUIRER's "The Daily Gospel" readings. Synchronicity?

The names are mentioned in Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite woman who begged him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. The scene portrays an example of great faith and feminine spunk. But Tyre and Sidon are mentioned here rather casually—only to establish the location perhaps. In other parts of the Bible, the mention of Tyre and Sidon seems to have greater significance. Like the ones in Isaiah 23, Joel, Luke and Matthew.

I started off by doing a biblical research exercise. Where first to start if not in the INQUIRER research department. The research head, Miner Generalao, is a budding Catholic biblical scholar who has been taking biblical courses even while sharpening her expertise in e-research on any topic under the sun.

One of the first things I learned from her was how to search the Bible online, all versions if I wanted. She started me off with the Revised Standard Version (RSV) which we used in college theology class. (http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/rsv.browse.html) My initial "Tyre and Sidon" search (as a pair) turned up 14 matches grouped "by work."

Maccabees (Apocrypha) 5:15—While they were reading this letter, suddenly other messengers, in torn clothes, arrived from Galilee to deliver a similar message: That against them had gathered together men of Ptolemais and **Tyre and Sidon**, and all Galilee of the Gentiles, "to annihilate us."

2 Esdras (Apocrypha) 1:11—I have destroyed all nations before them, and scattered in the east the people of two provinces, **Tyre and Sidon**; I have slain all their enemies.

Acts 12:20: Now Herod was angry with the people of **Tyre and Sidon**; and they came to him in a body, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food.

Jeremiah 47:4—Because of the day that is coming to destroy all the Philistines, to cut off from **Tyre and Sidon** every helper that remains. For the Lord is destroying the Philistines, the remnant of the coastland of Caphtor.

Joel 3:4—"What are you to me, O **Tyre and Sidon**, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you paying me back for something? If you are paying me back, I will requite your deed upon your own head swiftly and speedily.

Luke 6:17—And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of **Tyre and Sidon**, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases …

Luke 10:13 (and Matthew 11:21)—"Woe to you, Chora'zin! woe to you, Beth-sa'ida! for if the mighty works done in you had been done in **Tyre and Sidon**, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

Luke 10:14 (and Matthew 11:22)—But it shall be more tolerable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you …

Mark 3:8—… and Jerusalem and Idume'a and from beyond the Jordan and from about **Tyre and Sidon** a great multitude, hearing all that he did, came to him.

Mark 7:24—And from there he arose and went away to the region of **Tyre and Sidon**. And he entered a house, and would not have any one know it; yet he could not be hid.

Matthew 15:21—And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of **Tyre and Sidon.**

Zechariah 9:2—Hamath also, which borders thereon, **Tyre and Sidon**, though they are very wise.

The entire Chapter 23 of Isaiah has "Tyre and Sidon" as title. I like Isaiah with the soaring, wailing style. Listen to him:

"Oracle on **Tyre**: Wail, O ships of Tarshish, for your port is destroyed; From the land of Kittim the news reaches them. Silence! You who dwell on the coast, your merchants of **Sidon**… Shame O Sidon, fortress on the sea, for the sea has spoken … Who has planned such a thing against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, Whose merchants are princes, whose traders are the earths's honored men … At the end of the 70 years the Lord shall visit Tyre. She shall return to her hire and deal with all the world's kingdoms on the face of the earth. But her merchandise and her hire shall be sacred to the Lord. It shall not be stored up or laid away, but from her merchandise those who dwell before the Lord shall eat their fill and clothe themselves in choice attire."

Tyre was an ancient Phoenician port city on the Mediterranean coast of what is today southern Lebanon just north of the border of Israel. According to historians, Sidon was the oldest Phoenician city but Tyre eventually exceeded Sidon in fame and posterity.

Sure, Jesus used Tyre and Sidon unflatteringly to denounce Chorazin and Bethsaida. But, ah, more poetic and tragic is his denunciation of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I yearned to gather your children, as a hen gathers her young under her wings, but you were unwilling! Behold your house will be abandoned, desolate."

Some hardcore biblical websites consider the present-day conflicts in the Middle East as Old Testament prophecies come to pass.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

# Motive

### THE LONG VIEW

*Manuel L. Quezon III*

AFTER PRESIDENT ROXAS DIED IN 1948, PRESIdent Quirino began an investigation of the Surplus Property Commission. This was greeted with hostility by the President's own party. The notorious objection made by Senate President Jose Avelino—"what are we in power for?"—dates the controversy caused by Quirino's decision. In his memoirs, Quirino wrote that—and the national elections of 1949—was probably the origin of the charges that triggered the first impeachment attempt against a President.

Quirino said that his opponents were the Avelino wing of his party (Avelino was facing ouster from the Senate due to charges of corruption) and the Nacionalistas under the leadership of his expected rival for the presidency, Jose P. Laurel. Having asserted, in a budget confrontation with Congress, that he had recourse to emergency powers passed at the outbreak of World War II, Quirino was accused of exercising dictatorial powers and using public funds in order to aid his election that coming November. A resolution for impeachment was filed on April 4, 1949.

Quirino reacted angrily, writing the Speaker that the charges were "malicious and insolent," had been "prematurely announced in the press," and meant to "disrupt the necessary harmony between the executive and legislative branches." He asked the Speaker to "lose no time to act on the resolution in order to protect and vindicate the name of the Republic regardless of who is to be sacrificed on the altar of public duty." In his memoirs, Quirino reproduced, in full, the five charges against him. Those charges, as well as the political intramurals, make for interesting reading.

In light of what's happened in the House Committee on Justice, it's useful to see how the House handled the very first impeachment effort. Speaker Eugenio Perez formed a bipartisan, seven-man committee to study the impeachment resolution. It's chair, Lorenzo Sumulong, said, "Without deciding on the actual merit of each case, the committee will first determine whether each charge is impeachable in character." The President and his accusers were asked for memoranda on what constituted impeachable offenses by April 13, and to argue their points by April 18. NP and LP sniped at each other in both chambers of Congress.

Quirino found it odd that the impeachment proponents hired private counsels to prepare witnesses and do cross-examinations; the man almost resigned due to "physical and mental exhaustion" but House sponsors stepped in to help him out. What the Committee did next was in contrast to what the majority decided to do. Quirino wrote, "[it] decided to get at the facts first before attempting to rule on the legal contentions of both sides. After hearing both sides orally, it rejected the motion of the Solicitor-General to quash the charges … Then, to set the stage for a general examination of the merits for each charge, it decided to hold a three-day public hearing for the receipt of testimony or evidence from both parties. Both parties were further advised to submit stipulations of facts on which they were agreed,. leaving aside those charges on which they could not agree … On this basis, the committee quickly resolved the problem of separating the facts from the allegations in order to proceed immediately into the examination of each charge."

The committee heard, and received evidence; it then met to sift the evidence after which it decided to drop three of the five charges unanimously, while one objected to dropping one, and two objected to throwing out the other, of the remaining charges. The committee's decision went to the House as a whole, which spent seven hours in debate and then approved the committee's findings. The impeachment attempt thus ended on April 29, 1949.

The ending may have been the same as the impeachment charges against President Macapagal-Arroyo. The marked contrast between the two is what the present-day House majority has done in the Arroyo impeachment; the process in Quirino's case was easier to understand, fairer and made more sense—both defendant (the President) and accusers were asked for their initial reaction to the complaint, then the charges were tackled one by one, first, as to whether each was supported by evidence. If so, the committee proceeded to determine on whether the evidence supported a charge truly impeachable.

What the present House has done is to restrict the charges to the level of a debate familiar to theologians obsessed with figuring out how many angels can dance on a pinhead. Soaring discussions on principles of law can take place, but they're essentially sterile debates unless motive and evidence are considered and the charges are tackled one by one. But this, the majority insists, is forbidden.

Rep. Marcelino Libanan pointed out that Presidents Quirino and Macapagal faced impeachment charges, and said there were extensive precedents to show an official can't be impeached for acts committed during a previous term—which is fair enough. But ignored the fact that those Presidents were charged during their first terms. And for all his arguments based on legal cases, Libanan ignored the question of why cheating was raised: It brings up motive. How else to understand Palace decisions since 2005, unless motive is explained? And how else to understand the charges unless motive is discussed? Taken out of context—that is, examined without the benefit of a motive that ties everything together—then tackling any charge against any official becomes an exercise in futility, as the majority fully well intends.

Which is why Quirino could feel himself vindicated and why Ms Arroyo will never experience closure.

# Now what?

### YOUNG BLOOD

*Sinang*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

I GRADUATED CUM LAUDE FROM THE COUNTRY'S PREmier university. I was a consistent scholar throughout my four years of study, and my undergraduate thesis even received recognition from my college.

But all these seem to matter little now. Months after graduation, I am still a "fresh graduate," with no work and no paycheck to proudly present to my parents.

What did I do wrong? Nothing really, except that I took a course in humanities.

I can still remember my first year in college when my parents kept suggesting that I shift to courses that were "more in demand" such as nursing and engineering. Other relatives repeatedly asked what course I was taking and gave me a puzzled look every time they heard my reply.

"Com … *ano*?" they would demand to know.

"Comparative Literature, *po*," I would say patiently.

And they would ask, "*Ano 'yun?*"

It was easy to explain to them what my course was. The bigger challenge was explaining why I took it in the first place. My answer varied from "I love to read" to "I love to write" and "I have a passion for literature."

But in our materialistic world, where money makes the world go round, "passion" is definitely not a word that inspires confidence. More definitely, passion for the arts is regarded as more of a hobby than a career or a means of living.

I don't regret taking my course. In fact, I got what I wanted and I am very thankful that my parents supported me all the way, despite their initial reservations. I have been more than lucky not to have been forced to take a course I did not really want. However, there are days when I can't stop myself from getting envious of my college friends, most of whom finished business or information technology courses. We had not even marched, and they were already getting offers, some of which were hard to turn down. While I was basking in the summer sun, they were already immersed in training and seminars, earning between P25,000 and P40,000 a month, whopping sums for people who have just joined the workforce.

No, I don't expect to see the same large numbers written on my first paycheck. I just want the opportunity to put into practical uses the knowledge I've gained and the lessons I've worked hard to learn during four years of college. I want to share what I've learned, and more importantly, I want to be able to continue learning through the experiences I will have in a good working environment.

I do not want to be a bum for long. To put it simply: I want a job! I want to share my passion and prove to everyone what what I can do. I know that time will come, but I hope it will be soon.

*Sinang, 21, graduated last April and she is waiting for calls from companies that are willing to take her in.*

# Hired

*Starr A. Corpuz*

THREE MONTHS AGO, I GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERsity with a bachelor's degree in journalism. I was very eager to venture into the outside world, believing my excellent transcript of records would land me a good job. I scanned newspapers, browsed job portals and asked for contacts. I was very picky, applying for writing and marketing positions only in big and well-known companies. Two companies turned me down flat, while others didn't even give me an interview.

I started to panic. Knowing that my friends had already found jobs made me even more restless. I went back to a job site and gave a second look to job openings I didn't even glance at before. I stayed up to the wee hours looking lest I miss something related to my course.

One more week passed, and still no invites. I was tired of waiting, of doing nothing and of having no job to brag about.

It was a Monday when I received a call from a public relations company, which I didn't remember applying to. After all, I had sent resumés to dozens of companies already. My interview was set for the following Wednesday.

At one point, I thought of calling them back to cancel the interview, since I hadn't heard of the company before. But I held back and decided to give it a try.

That Wednesday, I arrived at the office 30 minutes early. It was just a spacious residential suite with tiny cubicles. As I scanned the room, I saw ads of famous brands plastered on walls and frames. It was only during the interview that I realized that I was not in just any ordinary PR office. This one had been servicing clients for 20 years and the members of its staff knew their stuff.

The instant I walked out of the interviewer's room, I knew I wanted the job badly—and not because theirs was not a small-time business but because I would learn a lot from these people.

My second interview was conducted by the company president, a beautiful and successful woman who made me believe that I have so much potential to excel in the field of public relations. I was praying hard to get the job—and I got hired. It was so good to be true that I told myself not to believe it until I actually started working.

From my job-hunting experience, I learned that one must be patient to get what he wants and to get where he wants to be. My earlier mistake was to look at superficial aspects of each company.

Yes, we should all strive to get good grades, but attitude is what matters when one is looking for the right employer and the kind of work where one can apply what he learned in school. When you're turned down, don't take it negatively and just keep on looking. When you do and you finally hear the words "You're hired," they sound much sweeter.

I've been going to work in Makati for a week now and how I love the feeling now that I am freed of my anxieties. At the office, I'm still feeling my way through, observing and asking many questions.

*Starr A. Corpuz, 21, works as a public relations assistant in a PR firm.*

**NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:**

*Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.*

# Hate-speech as journalism

IN HIS AUG. 8 COLUMN, ISAGANI A. Cruz ranted about the terrible vulgarity of gay hairdressers and effeminate school boys and he warned the Philippine nation lest it loses its masculine virility. (In 2003, he targeted gays on TV shows in a somewhat less hysterical article.) Cruz waxed nostalgic of the simpler days of his youth when hardly a gay could be spotted on the streets of Manila. Was he born during the Spanish Inquisition?

Cruz offered apologies to the "decorously discreet" homosexuals he respects—among them the "less than manly" dress designers (who are acceptable as long as they manage to repress their "condition"). If he had the guts he would also have apologized to the distinguished heads of several major Philippine corporations, Catholic and Protestant priests, movie stars, famous athletes, military men and millions of average Filipino men and women who are active homosexuals and lesbians enjoying their "condition" just fine.

Cruz launched himself into plain, old-fashioned bullying and gay-bashing, while trying to pass off hate-speech as respectable journalism. Social commentators are welcome to criticize gay culture all they want, we criticize ourselves mercilessly at times and accept criticisms from straight friends and honest critics when appropriate.

But Cruz is not a friend or thoughtful critic. He is a bigot and a hate-monger. He singled out the most vulnerable members of the gay community—the youth and transgendered and the marginalized workers among them—who have few options when dealing with their sexuality. He growled about the "homos" in religious processions and asked if the Philippines would be converted into a nation of "sexless persons." He fumed that some people are advocating that homosexuals be given equal rights as "male and female persons."

He menacingly boasted how gays were "mauled" in the 1970s when his five "macho" sons were in school. Despite being a former lawyer, he conveniently ignored the fact that violent gay-bashing is considered a serious hate-crime in most civilized nations.

Sadly, Cruz's self-righteous tirade is pointed to a direction where so many demagogues and hate groups have gone before. The Church in the dark days of the Spanish Inquisition proclaimed homosexuals an abomination in the eyes of God and sent hundreds of thousands of gays to be tortured and burned alive. Offending men were tied together and burned like faggots of wood, hence, our modern-day nickname "faggots."

The Nazis used gas chambers and the Red Guards in Shanghai used baseball bats because they felt bullets were too expensive to waste on "bourgeois degenerates." The American Klu Klux Klan castrated and lynched gays. And now Islamic fundamentalist death squads in Iraq and Iran are beheading gay men and lesbians in the name of their "all-merciful" God.

**—JONATHAN BEST,**
**Tambo, Parañaque City**

# What about the nonwhistle-blowers?

DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN FOR LUzon Victor C. Fernandez invited me to attend the launching last Aug. 4 of the "AHA: A Citizen's Primer on Whistleblowing and Tipping" in Quezon City.

During the open forum, I was fortunate to have been one of the five guests asked to raise some issues relative to whistle-blowing. Please allow me to share with the readers these humble observations.

Of course, I thank the Office of the Ombudsman, Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus and the USAID-Rule of Law and Effectiveness Project for their efforts to help curb graft and corruption in the government. The launching of the primer indeed eloquently demonstrates their sincere desire to promote decency, transparency and accountability in government service.

Not surprisingly, the primer is focused on the required legal knowledge, tipping strategies and techniques, fears and other concerns of the whistle-blower. In sum, the primer is a tool-guide only for the whistle-blower or would-be tipster.

There is no question that we must be concerned with the safety and security of the whistleblower. However, we should take into account, with equal concern, the "nonwhistle-blower." By reporting doubtful transactions in the government office where he is working, the whistle-blower becomes a nitpicker among the nonwhistle-blowers. The whistleblower is condemned as a faultfinder.

For sure, the naughty nonwhistle-blower's impulse will be to hate the whistle-blower and find ways not to be caught red-handed by the latter. It becomes a consumptive ritual for the whistleblower to be vigilant and to nitpick and the nonwhistle-blower to be cautious and not to be caught.

I strongly suggested during the open forum that the government should start introducing the nonwhistle-blower to the Gospel values of honesty, integrity, discipline and the significance of a Christian work-ethic.

If all of us who are against graft and corruption in the government dare face the realities of our time as courageously as the whistleblower, we must admit a miscarriage of focus: the education of the nonwhistle-blower on such values. Doubtless, if we can do this, one day there will be no more whistle-blowers to nitpick the non-whistleblowers.

**—REGINALD B. TAMAYO,**
**member, Sangguniang Bayan,**
**Aparri, Cagayan**

# Inspiring breed of animal lovers

THANKS TO THE INQUIRER FOR featuring stories that are highly commendable and inspiring. The ones I'm referring to are the articles published in the newspaper's Aug. 2 issue, about two very special people from Northern Luzon who have demonstrated—and continue to do so—their concern and genuine love for animals.

Both have gone great lengths of providing for their "special" charges—wild animals, stray cats and other abandoned pets—temporary living quarters and spending for their food, perhaps, even for their veterinary care, unmindful of the cost.

They say it takes saints to save "souls" that have gone astray. But it also takes a special breed of people to go all the way in saving animals that have been left behind by their owners for some reason or the other.

We take our hats off to Virgilio Solis Jr., owner of Rock Garden Resort (and zoo) and Prof. Victoria Rico Costina of UP Baguio, for their selflessness and genuine acts of kindness. May their tribe increase.

**—PATTY N. DEFENSOR,**
**14 Computer St.,**
**SSS Northfairview Homes,**
**Quezon City**

FORTUNATE mother and child in intimate breastfeeding communion PDI PHOTO

# Breastfeeding: not an issue for name-calling

RINA JIMENEZ-DAVID, IN HER Aug. 29 column titled "Bottle are for dummies," stated: "Breastfeeding makes much better sense on so many levels that only a dummy would choose the bottle over the breast."

Trust me, I would have loved to be one of those mothers who could claim proudly that I exclusively breastfed my child. But I am sorry to say, I take great offense at David's statement. To call bottle-feeders dummies does not encourage breastfeeding; it is, instead, a guilt-trip at the least, or a condescending gesture to some extent.

I congratulate David for having breastfed her second child, but it does not give her the right to call others who have not gone that path dummies. Such statements—"justified" simply on the basis of her personal experience and some general facts—assume carelessly that all circumstances that lead a mother not to breastfeed—and thus to bottle-feed her infant—are the same.

Please be careful in making such statements. I and, I'm sure, other mothers, already know how much milk formula costs. We know how much of our family budget gets devoted to it. We don't need the guilt trip or the name-calling.

I would have hoped for a more supportive approach from someone whom I and a lot of people have had respect for. Already, mothers today are so pressured to be perfect: to balance baby, husband, home, family, work, finances and a personal life. We do not need the extra pressure to be told (and taunted) that what we are doing is wrong. Tell us how we can do things right instead. (It's a thin line, but a huge difference.)

I breastfed my son for six months, however it was not exclusive. I would like to believe that my husband and I did what we thought was best for everyone concerned. My baby is nine-months old today—he is happy, healthy and a joy to everyone around him.

One of the benefits of breastfeeding is the closeness it brings to the child and the breastfeeding mother. While we weren't able to go through the lactation road completely, we were still proactive in many, many ways to safeguard our child's health, welfare and personal growth.

I think instead how blessed we are that there is an option outside of breastfeeding; and that at those points when we had to find other ways to keep our lives balanced and sane, we had access to choices. You see, opting for the bottle may seem like the easy way out. But that assumes a lot while also leaving many things left unsaid.

Furthermore, concluding that we, who have chosen to bottle-feed, did it out of idiocy is assuming too much. Some of us have reasons which are valid. They do not replace the benefits of breastfeeding, but they do not make us lesser parents either.

Just for the record, I do advocate breastfeeding. Certainly, breastfeeding must truly be one kind of miracle to be treasured. But I prefer not to place judgments on others whose shoes I do not walk in.

**—CANDICE LOPEZ-QUIMPO,**
**paeandice@yahoo.com**

# Ombudsman to find merit in charges vs Escobillo

INQUIRER'S HONESTO GENERAL expressed belief in his Aug. 7 column that the Ombudsman will throw out the corruption charges against Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo who has been accused of serving the interests of a group of insurance companies.

The issue is not whether the proposal to put up a clearinghouse for the issuance of compulsory third-party liability (CTPL) policies is good or bad. The issue is whether or not Escobillo, in pushing for the establishment of such a clearinghouse, violated our laws on graft and corruption.

Reportedly, Escobillo had been attending meetings of the insurance companies' umbrella organization and "advising" nonmembers of the organization to join the group. Thus, she is being seen as a "runner" of this business group.

How can Escobillo exercise the mandate of her office—which is to regulate these insurance companies—when she is, at the very least, cozying up to them?

I believe that the Ombudsman, contrary to General's opinion, will find merit in the accusation made against Escobillo and will file the necessary charges against her before the Sandiganbayan.

For so many years now, motorists registering their vehicles with the Land Transportation Office are being sold fake CTPL policies. However, the proposed clearinghouse is not the answer to the problem since it will be controlled by the insurance companies themselves, a number of which are behind the worthless CTPLs.

**—FRELYN PALAO,**
**59 Kabasaan Rd.,**
**Zignal Village, Taguig City**

# Tell it to the Marines

MAGDALO MUTINEER LT. LAWRENCE SAN Juan, after about four months in solitary confinement, was suddenly presented by the military in a press conference to confess that the alliance of the Magdalo officers with the communists caused his change of heart and led him to spill the beans on them. Then, he pledged allegiance to the Constitution, the armed forces and to the incumbent President,

I don't think the written confession of San Juan is credible. How could his brother Magdalo officers have forged an alliance with the communists without his knowledge? Isn't he supposed to be a patriotic, intelligent and brave military officer?

I believe that San Juan "betrayed" his comrades after he was pressured or somehow brainwashed. Or, most probably, some members of his family persuaded him to change his mind.

After all, San Juan's purported sworn statement has not been notarized. As usually said of highly incredible tales, "Tell it to the Marines!"

**—RICARDO TILLO JR.,**
**San Diego Compound,**
**Caridad, Cavite City**

# Pastor Isaiah Sta. Rosa victim of political killing

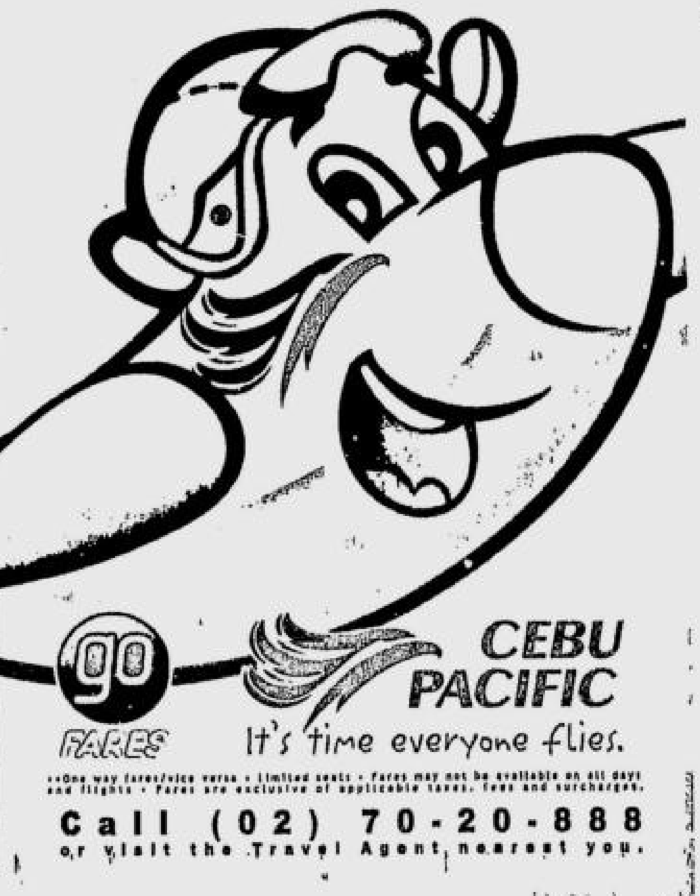
WE ARE ENRAGED BY THE MURDER OF another pastor of the United Methodist Church. Isaiah Sta. Rosa, pastor of the United Methodist Church in Daraga, Albay, was found dead on Thursday night near a creek moments after being shot by 10 masked gunmen outside his house.

Cpl. Lordger Pastrana of the Philippine Army was also found dead beside Sta. Rosa. The gunmen had gone to the house of his brother, Jonathan, who lives in the same compound, before they took Sta. Rosa. Jonathan identified Pastrana as one of the 10 gunmen who went to his house moments before Sta. Rosa was killed. The pastor was a member of the Farmers' Movement in Bicol.

Once again, we appeal to the media and all Filipinos to join us in condemning this barbaric cycle of killings and in seeking justice for our fallen brothers and sisters.

We shall prevail!

**—CHITO QUIJANO,**
**chitoquijano@yahoo.com**



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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

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# Aeta seek better life in Mindoro

**By Madonna Virola**
*Bansud, Oriental Mindoro*

**AETA settlers gather for a group picture in Bansud, Oriental Mindoro.**

MADONNA T. VIROLA

IT MIGHT HAVE STARTED AS A joke by, perhaps, a well-meaning lawman, but the Aeta people took his advice seriously and went to Bansud town in Oriental Mindoro more than a decade ago—only to find life's cruelty.

Still, the community of more than 100 in the interior village of Upper Pag-asa, about 3 km from the main road, clings to hope for a peaceful and fruitful settlement.

In 1993, a policeman scribbled his name and address in Bansud to a group of more than 10 Aeta people whom he met along a river in Pinamalayan town.

"In jest, I told them to come to Bansud for land so they don't wander around," said the law enforcer.

Unaware that land is a serious Aeta concern, the policeman was surprised one day to see five from the group he had met at the doorstep of his house in Bansud, 3 km from Pinamalayan.

He referred them to the barangay chair, who guided them to a cogonal parcel of land that had been covered by the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and subsequently foreclosed by a bank.

More than 30 Aeta families coming from Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, and parts of Bicol and Mindoro became the first settlers on the land near a river.

A few non-Aeta families and CARP beneficiaries also arrived.

## Survival

The Aeta settlers have survived on cassava and wildlife, such as turtles and snakes, but there had been days when they did not have any meal at all. Skilled in the ways of the forest, they prepare and sell herbal medicines, as well as produce and sell charcoal.

"We want to plant. It's difficult to be walking all day to far places selling herbs," said 78-year-old Maria Baron.

Last year, "outsiders" burned the unschooled woman's house. For two nights, she had no food to eat and endured the rain before she was brought to the hospital.

Baron, who has seven children and 24 grandchildren, said that sometimes, she led a beggar's life at the market.

Another settler, Cyril dela Cruz, 28, related how her daughter would be asked in school, "Why are you black and curly?"

In another school reading material, Cyril said she read that an Aeta meant a "slave."

Domeng Baron, 35, related how his people had become vulnerable to the whims of outsiders whose concerns or causes they had little knowledge of.

He recalled how several Aeta were mauled by soldiers running after militants in the area.

"*Nagtumpok kami sa isang bahay, isang buwan kaming di makatulog sa takot* (We were holed up inside a house for one month, and we could hardly sleep out of fear)," said Baron.

## Prayers

In May, a typhoon destroyed their houses and a small chapel, but these were rebuilt with the help of the Born Again Christians of the Faith Community Christian Center.

Rodolfo dela Cruz, whose family was among the early Aeta settlers, became the pastor who offered them hope and strength through prayers and bible studies.

Other community members, however, have learned to enjoy watching together a battery-powered television set bought by one of them.

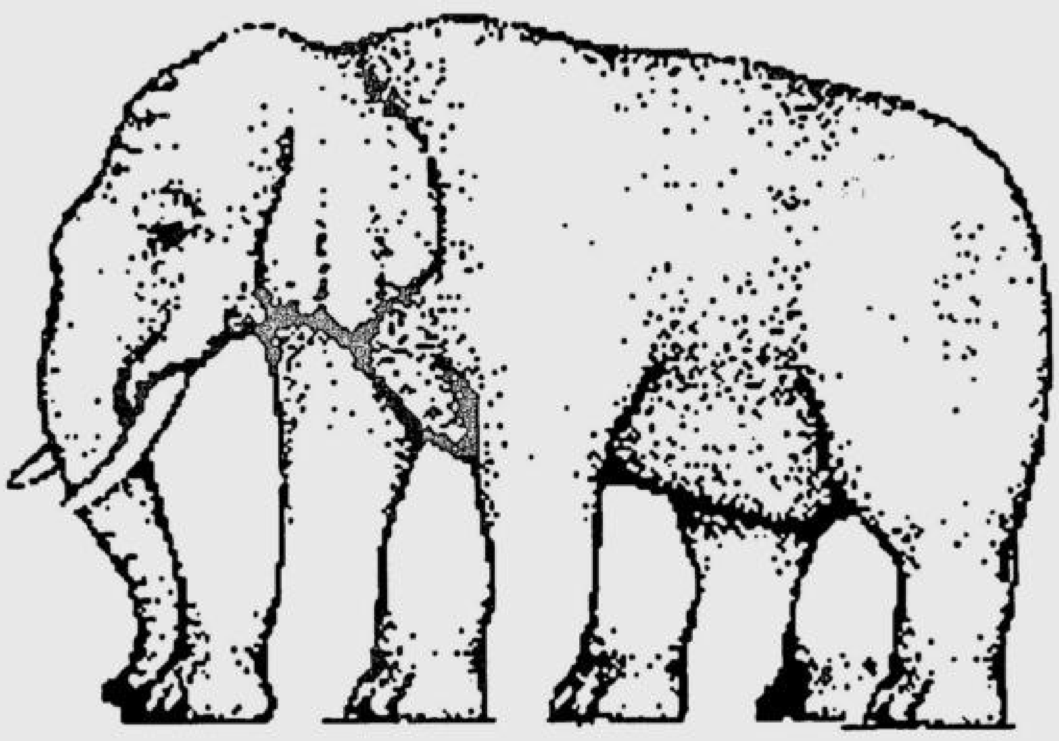
A shy and sensitive people, the Aeta have difficulty staying permanently in one place. "For peace of mind, we also want to leave this place and gather in another place," one settler said.

Local government officials are letting them stay on the property as no claimant have yet appeared.

They pose no harm, anyway, said former Councilor Thelma Reyes.

*THOSE who wish to help the Aeta community in Bansud may contact Pastor Rodolfo dela Cruz at 0910-2983561*

How many legs?



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## Army raises alert for JI attacks in Mindanao

CAMP SIONGCO, MAGUINDANAO—The military has placed the entire south-central Mindanao on high alert following reports that members of Southeast Asian terror group Jemaah Islamiyah will carry out a series of bombings in key cities in Mindanao.

Text messages have been circulating since Tuesday night, saying the targets of the bombings are the cities of Davao, Tacurong, Kidapawan, General Santos, Koronadal and Makilala town in North Cotabato.

"There are groups who want to carry out bombings. We are monitoring them," Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, told the INQUIRER.

"To prevent such attacks, we urge the people to report to police and military any suspicious-looking men. We must be vigilant. That's one way to prevent any possible attack," he added.

Ando said he had received intelligence reports about the possible attacks before the bombings here and in Kidapawan on Aug. 10 that killed eight persons.

The explosion here injured two members of the Regional Security Force, a policeman manning the gates of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao compound, and two unidentified civilians.

Earlier, Speaker Jose de Venecia and other leaders of Congress sought the immediate enactment of the antiterror bill now pending at the Senate, saying its passage had become more imperative now after British police foiled a plot to blow up trans-Atlantic planes in the United States.

Also, Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan and Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas, both principal authors of House Bill No. 4839 which seeks to define, suppress and prevent terrorism, said that the foiled bomb plot should serve as a wake-up call for Congress to finally approve the antiterror bill.

Libanan said the measure passed by the House on April 5 remained pending at the Senate. He called on Senate President Manny Villar to "exercise political will" and shepherd the bill's approval. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

# BCDA execs brought Poro Pt. port takeover to Palace meet

**By Tonette Orejas**
*Inquirer Central Luzon*

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—THE PLAN to take over the Poro Point seaport was taken to Malacañang on Jan. 24 and a meeting was scheduled with it on top of the agenda.

Narciso Abaya, president and chief executive officer of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, made a brief presentation in the meeting of the Cabinet and the National Economic and Development Authority on that day, according to sources and documents furnished the INQUIRER.

One of the sources, a former BCDA official still in contact with several BCDA directors, said Abaya presented the legal options through which the BCDA could recover the seaport from Poro Point Industrial Corp (PPIC).

Copies of printouts of the slide presentation made by Abaya were made available to the INQUIRER by a Palace official.

The source said Abaya had told the Cabinet and Neda that PPIC's contract "cannot be declared null and void" in line with the position of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel.

"Why was (Abaya) asked by the Cabinet and Neda to make such a presentation? There really was an order from the top," the source said.

A "turnaround" was how he called Abaya's takeover order to the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).

In a telephone interview on Wednesday, Abaya confirmed the meeting but denied he had made a presentation or even proposed legal steps.

"I did not even say a word," he said.

But copies of the slide presentation showed that officials, during the meeting, weighed the options of either renegotiating the contract with PPIC, a joint venture between the BCDA and private firm Bulk Handlers Inc., or terminating it.

ABAYA

BCDA Chair Filadelfo Singson Rojas was also present in the meeting.

According to Abaya, President Macapagal-Arroyo was in the meeting but she cut the discussion short because the lawyer of Poro Point Management Corp., a subsidiary of the BCDA, was "not there."

"There's no point discussing this," Abaya quoted Ms Arroyo as saying. He could not remember the name of the PPMC lawyer.

### Divided board

According to the source, several directors in the BCDA's nine-member board disagreed with Abaya's decision to have the PPA run the port and get PPIC out in the meantime.

"All along, the BCDA board was consistent with the stand that the (PPIC) contract can't be declared null and void, consistent with the opinion of the OGCC that it was a valid contract," the former BCDA official said.

"*Basta inoperate na lang ni* Abaya (Abaya unilaterally took actions to operate it)," the source said, citing the views of some directors.

Asked if the BCDA had issued a resolution allowing the PPA to operate the seaport and agreeing that the cease-and-desist order (CDO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources warranted the takeover, Abaya replied no.

He said a resolution was "not needed" at that point when the DENR issued the order.

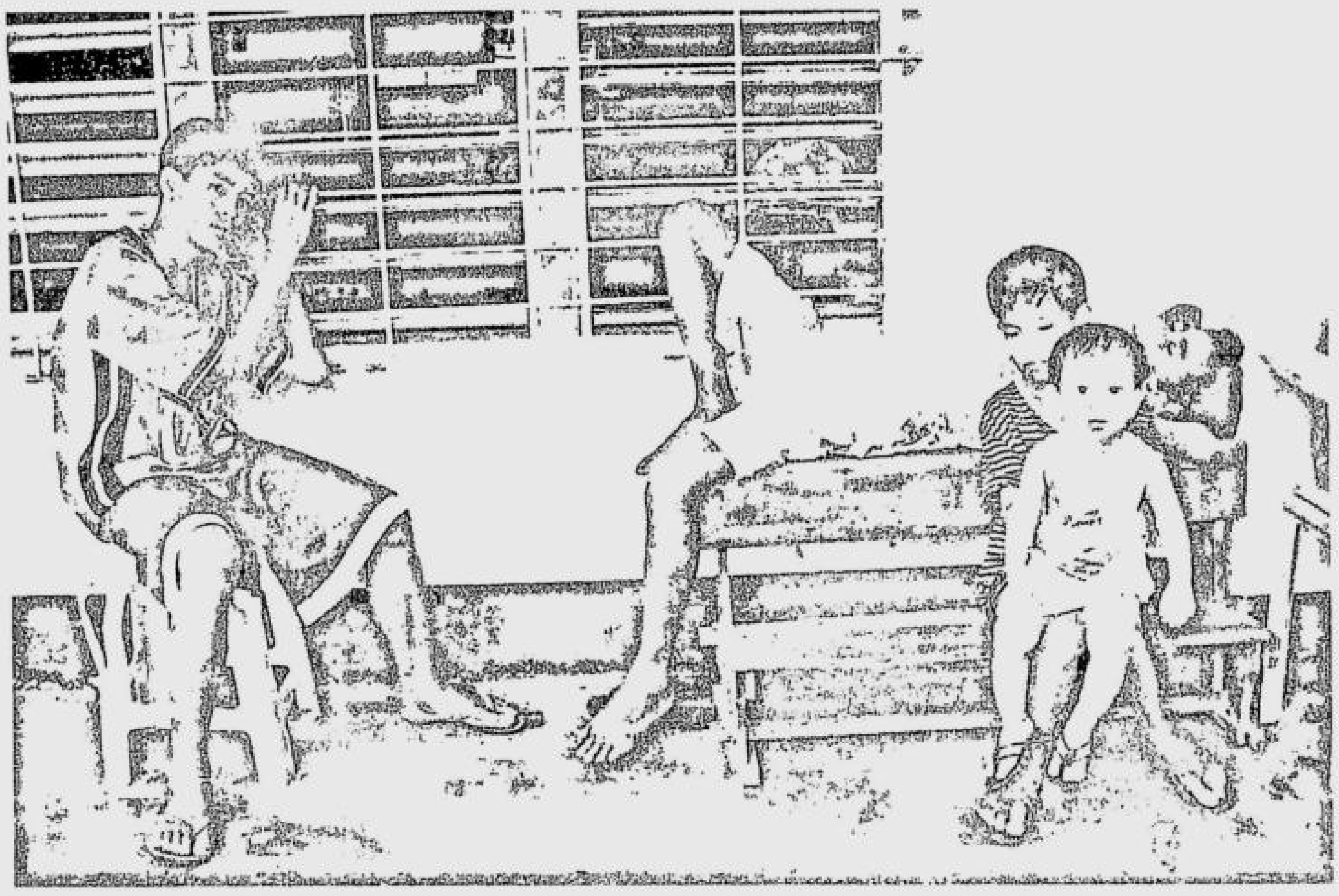
As BCDA president and chief executive officer, Abaya said he had "to look after public interest and seek assistance so that the operations of the seaport would not be disrupted."

He, however, said the agency's policies were reached through the "collective decision of the board."

"Until now, the BCDA still considers PPIC's contract valid."

According to him, PPMC, which is chaired by Rojas was one of "several quarters" seeking to void PPIC's contract, which was being perceived to be "grossly disadvantageous to the government."

"I have the interest of the BCDA in mind and not anybody's [interest]. Nobody can pressure me," Abaya said.


**IDLE TIME**
**Evacuees from communities around Mayon find so much idle time in their hands and not much to do but sit around or take naps as these youngsters do at the Bagumbayan Elementary School in Legazpi City.** NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

## Palawan court rules in favor of firm in nickel mining

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—AFTER conducting a thorough review, a regional trial court here junked efforts of Olympic Mines and Development Corp. (OMDC) to end the operating agreement it entered into with Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC) in 2003.

A press statement sent to the INQUIRER said Puerto Princesa RTC Branch 52 ruled that only the court could cancel or revoke a binding contract.

The court affirmed the legality of a bilateral agreement granting the two mining firms "equal and mutual rights and reciprocal obligations to operate in a mining site" in the municipalities of Narra and Española in Palawan, the statement added.

It also denied the petition for a preliminary injunction filed by OMDC to stop PGMC from its operation, saying PGMC did not violate any provision of the agreement as claimed by OMDC.

The court ruled that PGMC would be the aggrieved party in case the contract was cancelled or rescinded.

"The massive financial losses that PGMC may sustain are real and clear to be passed over lightly in order to indulge the obsession of OMDC to recover possession of the mining areas despite the fact that PGMC has complied with the terms and conditions of the operating agreement," it stressed.

The court ruling recognized the efforts of PGMC to equitably compensate the rice farmers, implement infrastructure development and adopt preventive and corrective measures to protect the environment and the welfare of the local residents.

Earlier this month, separate statements were made by local officials acknowledging PGMC's contributions to the town.

Narra town mayor Lucena Dimaala said PGMC was able to provide job opportunities in the past two years and helped lower the unemployment rate in Narra and its nearby barangays.

She said 75 percent of the residents of Narra alone were gainfully employed at the PGMC.

Indigenous peoples from Narra received 1 percent of their share of P2.4 million derived from the nickel mining operation last year, while PGMC is set to turn over another P2.1 million this year, Dimaala added.

Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes approved the operations of PGMC in 2004, allowing it to extract 50,000 metric tons of nickel per year for two years until November.

A two-year extension has been granted to PGMC. *Inquirer Southern Luzon Bureau*

## Muslims sign covenant with cops in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—MUSLIM MIGRANTS in Baguio prefer to cooperate with local police to show the government that an antiterror law may not even be necessary.

On Tuesday, they signed a covenant with Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, city police director, which describes exactly how they can assist the police in their operations.

It requires Muslim leaders "to take responsibility [for] guiding the good behavior or conduct of their community members," in the course of a joint campaign to flush out potential terror suspects.

Islamic scholar Bedejim Abdullah said both the proposed antiterror measures now being pushed by the government and the conflict between Israel and Lebanon could unnecessarily provoke local Muslims.

Bedejim said he could not speak for all Muslim Filipinos, but he saw the antiterrorism measure to be "too general" in scope.

An antiterrorism law may worsen existing tensions instead of stopping them, he said, because the government does not understand their culture. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

### SARIAYA PORT

## Group disowns ex-official's remarks

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—AN irrigators group assailed one of its former official for misrepresenting the organization in a controversy involving a P1.6-billion port facility in Quezon province.

Rene Pido, president of the Sarangani-General Santos City Integrated Irrigators Federation, Inc. (Siifi), lambasted Edwin Paraluman, former Siifi president, for allowing himself to be used in a smear campaign against Nation Granary Inc. (NGI), which set up the port in Sariaya town.

Paraluman, who claimed he was the national president of Siifi, raised doubts on the viability of the port project, citing its remote location and security situation in the area.

But Pido said Paraluman had no personality to represent Siifi as he was no longer an official of the irrigators group.

He added that the statement issued by Paraluman was his own and did not reflect the official position of the organization.

He clarified that Siifi is an association of farmers-irrigators here and in Sarangani and not national in scope as what Paraluman had purportedly tried to project.

He said Paraluman, a leading proponent of gene-altered BT-corn, left for the United States in January under the auspices of a multinational seed company.

On Aug. 7, the Siifi board of directors unanimously approved Resolution No. 02 disclaiming Paraluman's statements. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao*

## ROUNDUP

### Permits questioned

BUTUAN CITY—An antimining group here has questioned the mining permits issued to two companies in Tubay, Agusan del Norte, claiming that they were construction firms and had no business to mine nickel and cobalt in the area. Rolando Carlota of the People's Campaign against Mining in Tubay cited documents from the Securities and Exchange Commission showing that the business of Galeo Equipment Corp. and SR Metal Inc. "is to build, repair roads and bridges, and definitely not mining." Alilio Ensomo Jr., director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Caraga, said he had ordered an investigation into the controversy as he denied that the bureau had a hand in the issuance of the permits. Gov. Erlpe John Amante said he granted the small-scale permits, but added that he based his decision on the MGB's recommendation. ***Franklin M. Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao***

### Farmer executed

LUCENA CITY—Suspected communist rebels abducted and killed a farmer in a village in Infanta, Quezon last week, police said. The victim was identified as Jimmy Cupas, 39, of Barangay Kuweba, Sta. Maria, Laguna. At least 14 heavily armed persons, who identified themselves as New People's Army members, showed up at the victim's house and told him to accompany them to Infanta. When the group arrived in Barangay Magsaysay in Infanta, Cupas was shot and killed, police said. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon***

### Army reservist held

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police arrested an Army reservist who posed as a communist rebel and tried to extort money from an Indian businessman. Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Prospero Noble said in a report that the victim, Raj Kumar Chonkia, 31, complained to Nagcarlan deputy police chief Insp. Gerry Sanggalang about Roberto Miranda, 47, a store owner, of Barangay Malaya, Nagcarlan, who allegedly identified himself as *Ka* Victor of the New People's Army and demanded "revolutionary tax" from him. Miranda, an Army reservist in Camp Eldridge in Los Baños, Laguna, was caught receiving money from Chonkia inside a house in Barangay Banagao, Nagcarlan. ***Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

### Lifestyle check

BACOLOD CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation is conducting a lifestyle check on four officials of two national government agencies here. NBI-Bacolod chief Philip Pecache said the names of the four officials, who included one female, were furnished by the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas, which had asked the agency to verify reports that they bought luxury cars and lots in posh subdivisions in Negros Occidental. ***Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas***

### Alert on bad fish

BACOLOD CITY—The government has warned the public against eating barracuda caught in the Cuyo Pass following reports about fish poisoning. Malcolm Sarmiento Jr., director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, said barracuda fished from Cuyo and landed in Barangay Butuan, Anini-y, Antique, were found positive for ciguatoxin. "This toxin is highly concentrated in the internal organs of fishes, such as the livers, roe, etc.," he added. Ciguatera fish poisoning may occur hours after eating a contaminated fish. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, body and muscle aches, headaches, numbness and tingling sensation around the mouth, hands and feet. ***Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas***

# Road to centennial gets underway

## Modernizing, upgrading, rehabilitating, and reinventing of 'hospital for the poor'

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has allotted P100 million to augment the PGH fund for new modern health facilities. Alfiler noted that with the fund, the hospital will soon have new multi-slice CT scan, ultra sound, and gamma camera for thyroid, heart, abdominal and other diseases

Dr. Carmelo A. Alfiler, PGH Director

By Marlet D. Salazar

**Living up to its name as being the premier national university hospital in the country, the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) is now all work in its programs of "modernizing, upgrading, rehabilitating, and reinventing" its entire healthcare system.**

To mark its 99th founding anniversary, PGH will inaugurate all the finished, upgraded, and rehabilitated buildings and equipment. It will also launch its stream of activities for one whole year leading to its centenary in 2007.

According to PGH director Dr. Carmelo Alfiler, all this became possible because of all the generous donations from sponsors and donors who have helped them over the years.

PGH has earned the reputation of having the experts, not only in the medical field, but also in all the fields of health sciences. The hospital has become the hospital for the less fortunate who cannot afford the best healthcare and treatment which was perceived to be only available in private hospitals.

Alfiler said, "The hospital wants to stay that way; to cater mostly to the indigents."

They are driven by their desire to help the Filipino people by improving the facilities of PGH. So far, the hospital has been successful in its efforts with the help of its countless benefactors such as the PGH Medical Foundation, Inc.

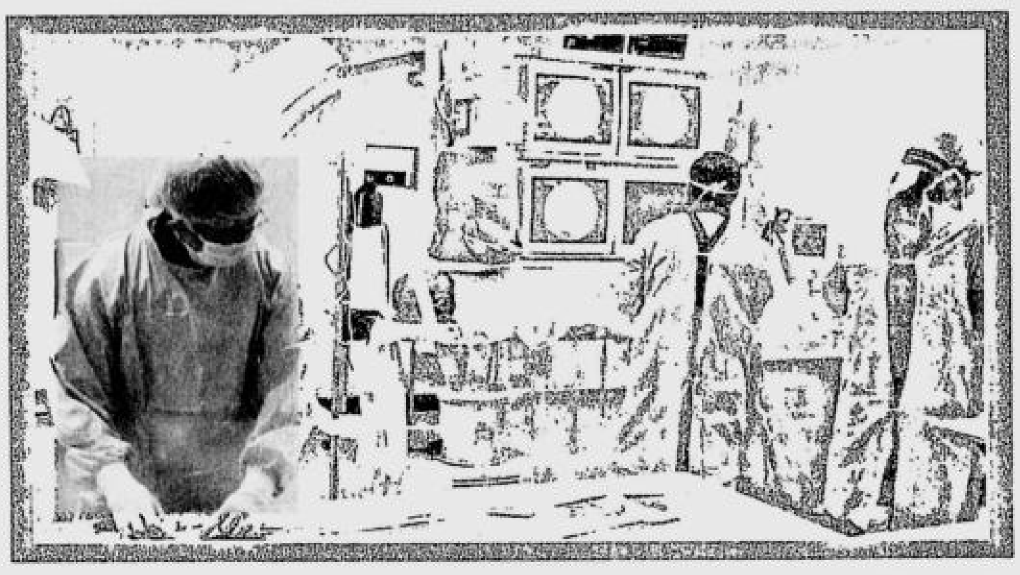
The remarkable transformation of the PGH is very much evident since the upgrading started two years ago. It is not only the aesthetic part of the hospital that has been given much attention. The administrative and management systems are also undergoing their own advancement.

Alfiler expresses the desire to complete the "dream" of the 15-storey building which will serve as the venue for the Integrated Diagnostic and Treatment Services. This will accommodate all departments from pediatric to geriatric care.

But the existing buildings are not to be forgotten for these have been experiencing massive renovation following the outpouring of budget allocation, donations, and sponsorships as well as the administration's in-house income-generating projects.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has allotted P100 million to augment the PGH fund for new modern health facilities. Alfiler noted that with the fund, the hospital will soon have new multi-slice CT scan, ultra sound, and gamma camera for thyroid, heart, abdominal and other diseases.

PGH has 16 charity wards serving the mostly disadvantaged patients. Nine of them are adopted by the Senate Spouses Foundation Inc. and has since transformed the wards into patient-friendly units. The Adopt-a-Charity Ward attracted many donors including the 37 Ladies of the Lower House of Congress. For their part, they pledged to renovate Obstetrics Ward 16. Of the 16 charity wards, only three are not yet adopted for renovation.



The Sentro Oftalmologico José Rizal or PGH's National Eye Center received a P440 million grant from the Spanish government to construct its five-storey building. "Part of the grant was also used to purchase new equipment and training of the staff," Alfiler said.

Most of the efforts and resources that come in go to purchasing new equipment that must have been in place sooner. These according to Alfiler are equipment that were available only in private hospitals in which most of the poor didn't have access.

PGH is also banking on Senate Resolution No. 40 which will allow senators to sponsor one of the 27 equipment from the "wish list" of the hospital. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who also authored the resolution, already gave P16 million to buy gastrointestinal and cardiology machines. "She has also pledged to help purchase a multi-slice CT scan which costs P40 million," Alfiler said.

Other senators have already lined up their pledges for the complete transformation of PGH to not only as an experts' hospital but also of having state-of-the-art facilities which will benefit the low-income patients. Senators Franklin Drilon and Jamby Madrigal will turn over their pledges in this week's celebration. Other pledgers include Senators Manny Villar, Francis Pangilinan, Juan Flavier, Pia Cayetano, Sergio Osmena, Ramon Magsaysay, Richard Gordon and Edgardo Angara.

There are two projects which PGH spearheads to be able to reach out to more Filipinos. "Tatak PGH Plus" aims to impart their expertise and best practices in all areas of health sciences to 17 towns and cities in Metro Manila, and 12 hospitals of the Department of Health (DOH) in the country.

"We want to expand our health services most especially to the poor," Alfiler said. "We are going to do capacity building and technology transfer to our counterparts in the DOH hospitals to increase their confidence and reliance."

This will also help PGH to concentrate on more advanced cases.

Having seen 630,000 patients last year, Alfiler said Tatak PGH Plus would somehow give people the assurance that they don't have to go to PGH in Manila to receive quality healthcare. About P 3M from the PGMA fund will be used to purchase a mobile health van for the "Tatak PGH Plus". Also, on instructions of PGMA, DBM and DOH are facilitating the release of more funds to be used for the project.

"Ninety percent of our patients are indigents," he said, "From zero to P7,500 income a month."

Because PGH believes in total healthcare as evidenced by its desire to improve and upgrade its facilities, it is also coming up with a program for the "generally healthy" individuals.

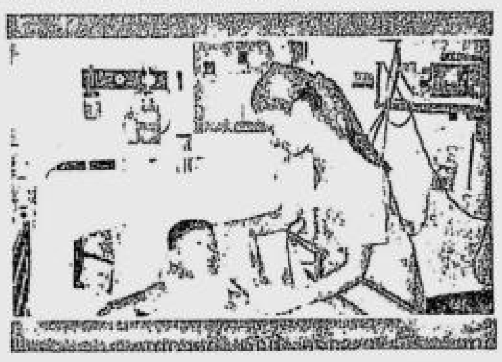
"We want to eliminate the notion that hospitals are for the sick only," he said.

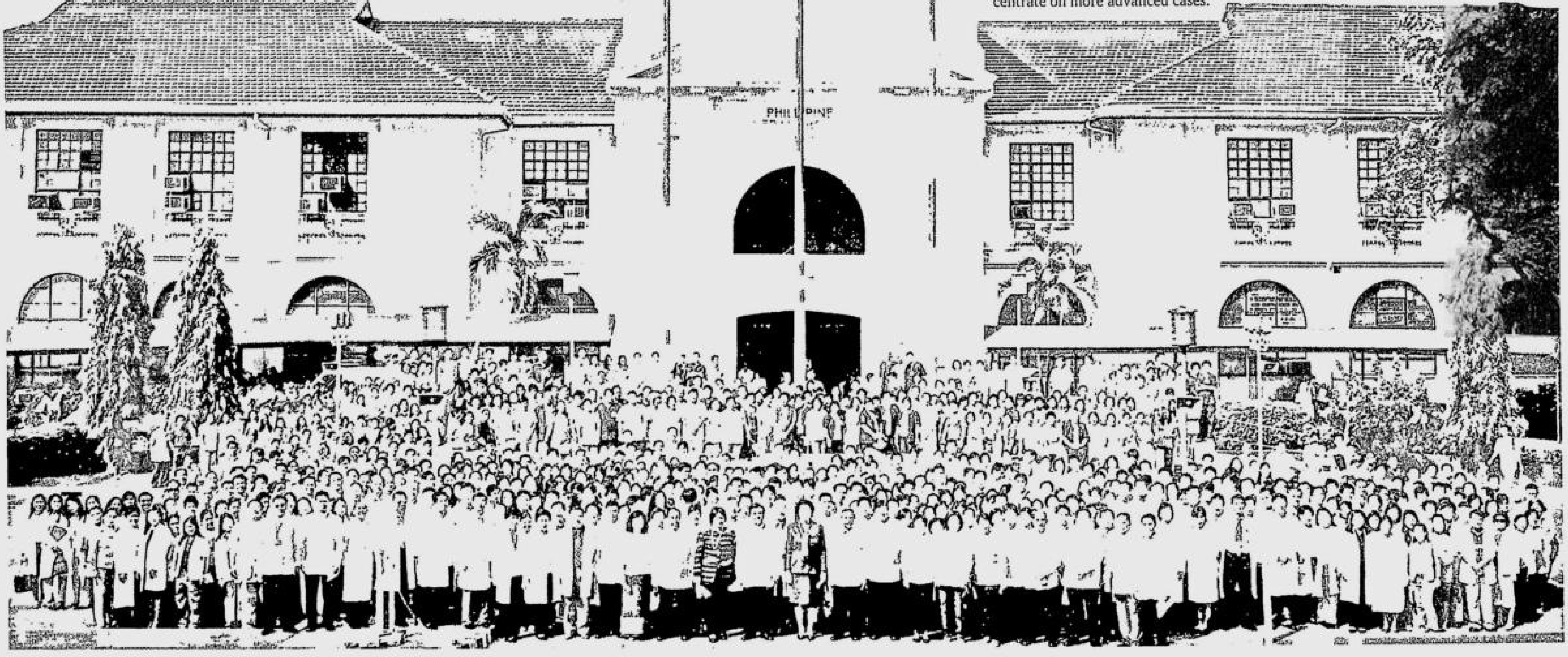
Klinika ng Kalusugan or Periodic Health Examination Clinic (PHEC) is a new kind of health management approach. Individuals from 0 to 100 years old will have an executive checkup based on their family's medical history, age, and even lifestyle. A total of P1 million from the PGMA Fund will be used for the necessary equipment.

The flood of help and budget priorities led to more efforts to give the best possible care for the Filipinos: from renovating the OB facilities to buying a mobile van to improving its dietary buildings, and much more.

Alfiler believes that PGH has already proved itself to have the best health sciences experts in the country. It is about time that the hospital be at par with the others in terms of facilities. The less fortunate members of society deserve to receive quality healthcare.

With the needed attention PGH gets these days, the dream of serving the Filipino people with the best healthcare is now realized.





Warmest felicitations to the men and women of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) as you celebrate your 99th Foundation Week and officially launch the yearlong Centennial Celebration of PGH.

For almost a century, the PGH has played a pivotal role in the country's public health system, particularly in treating indigent patients. And I am pleased that we have made significant inroads in ensuring the health of the Filipino. By successfully combating bird flu, increasing PhilHealth insurance coverage, and making low-cost medicines available in government hospitals, we have shown our capability in protecting our people from diseases. But the war against disease and poverty is far from over and we have much to do.

As the country's premier public hospital, I urge you to be one with me in ensuring that all our citizens will have more access to affordable, yet quality healthcare. I urge you to complement the basic services provided by our government so that we can better attend to the health and medical needs of our people.

Congratulations on your Centennial Anniversary and mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Congratulations to the staff and faculty of the Philippine General Hospital on the occasion of your 99th Foundation Week and the launching of your Centennial Celebration.

In a world in which things change so rapidly, it's almost hard to conceive of 100 years. The connotations of a century are all grand. For an institution to reach this milestone it must be consistently excellent and carry a legacy of dedicated service that people for generation after generation know about. These are true of PGH. As a medical institution, you heal countless thousands of people in dire need of good health care. As an educational facility, you have trained some of the best Filipino doctors.

A hundred years of existence is not possible without a commitment to continuous improvement. The field of medicine is extremely dynamic and only the best minds can meet its demands with great success. The scholarly production generated by the PGH-faculty and staff is solid proof that, indeed, you are at the top of your field.

While you all have much to be proud of, it is us who are proud of you. Beyond this, we are truly grateful for the sacrifices you have made, and continue to make for the well-being and betterment of the Filipino people.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay kayong lahat!

(Sgd) EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
President
University of the Philippines Diliman

Greetings and congratulations to the Philippine General Hospital on the commemoration of its 99th year. As this year's celebration signals the start of the hospital's centenary in 2007, it affords us a good opportunity to reflect on, rejoice and be proud of PGH's contributions to providing quality health care for Filipinos during the past 99 years.

The history of PGH is a fascinating journey into the history of health and medicine in the Philippines. Perhaps in no other hospital is the history of health in the Philippines more closely bound than in PGH, and this is also because it is the training hospital of UP Manila, the country's leading university in the health sciences.

Through the years, PGH has become a part of the lives of the millions of patients it has served, of the thousands of health professionals and caregivers it has trained, and of the administrators, donors, and partner institutions it has worked with to whom the hospital owes its strength, excellence, and leadership.

Now in the new millennium, the hospital continues to expand the breadth and depth of its programs and services with its continued efforts to modernize and augment its facilities and enhance patient care services. Through all the triumphs, difficulties, and challenges it has faced, the hospital has never wavered on its mission: to provide quality health care to the Filipino people, especially the underserved.

Again, congratulations to all those who have been a part of PGH and thank you for your dedicated and loyal service. Mabuhay kayong lahat!

RL Arcadio
RAMON L. ARCADIO, MD, MHPEd
Professor and Chancellor
University of the Philippines Manila

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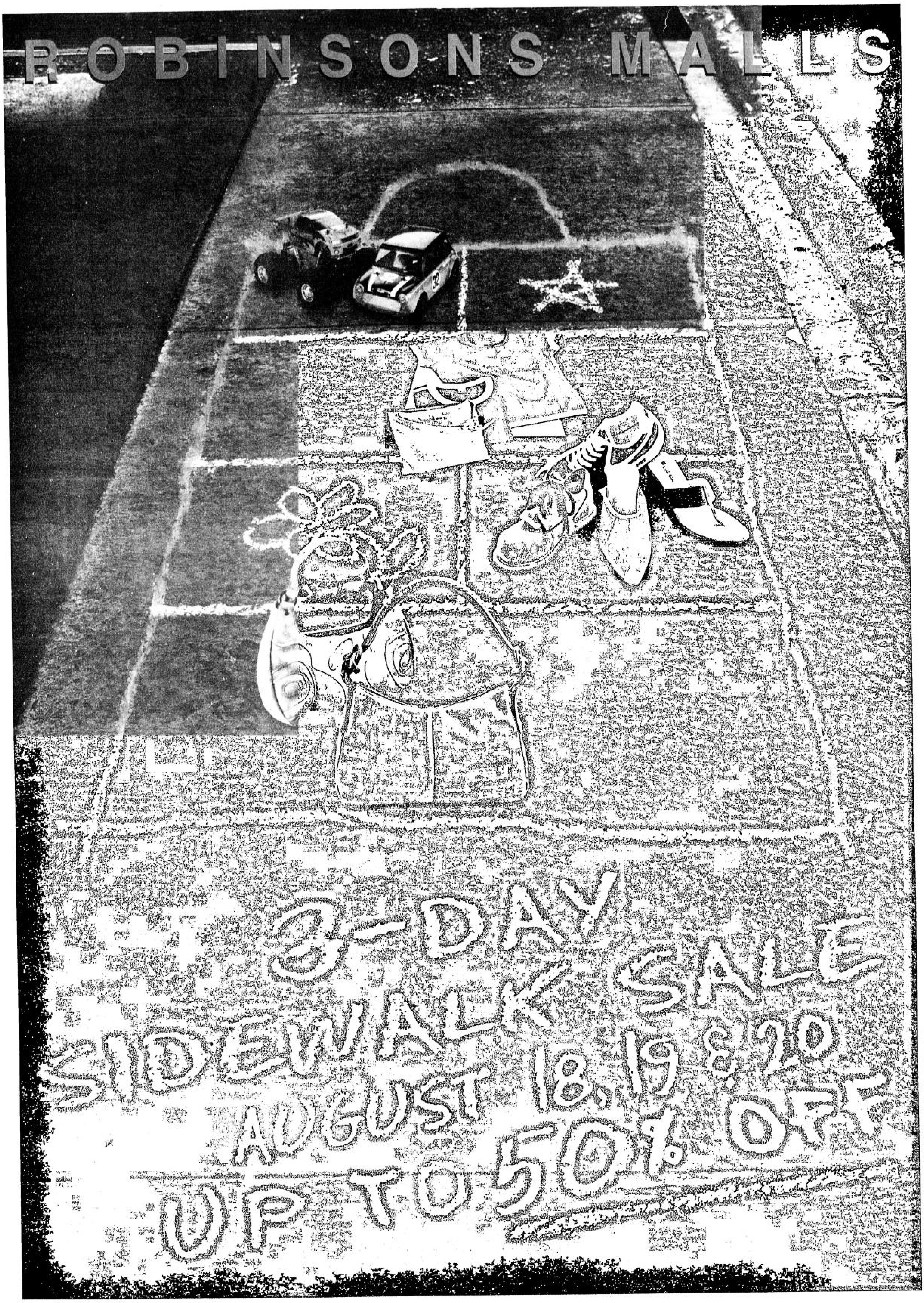

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Aug. 18 - Sitti
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**Robinsons Metro East**
Aug. 18 - Shamrock
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**Robinsons Place Novaliches**
Aug. 18 - Frio
Aug. 19 - Session Road
Aug. 20 - Cueshe

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Aug. 19 - Isabel Oli
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**Robinsons Place Lipa**
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Aug. 19 - Paolo Santos
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Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 3501, Series of 2006

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
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## METROBRIEFS

### Makati cop shot dead

A POLICEMAN officer was shot dead while pacifying a group of men engaged in a fight before dawn yesterday in Makati City. SP02 Orlando de Leon died due to a gunshot wound in the head. He also suffered serious injuries after the suspects hit him in the face with a liquefied petroleum gas tank, said Senior Insp. Gary Reyes, criminal investigation division chief. Reyes identified the suspects as Romeo de Castro, the alleged gunman, brothers Randolf and Roland Pabanil and Eric de Castro. De Leon, assigned to the Police Community Precinct 3 in Barangay Bangkal, was already on his way home at 3 a.m. when he saw four men fighting in front of a bakery on A. Apolinario Street corner Estrella Street. "He tried to pacify the suspects but they turned their anger on him," said Reyes in an interview yesterday. After firing at De Leon, one of the suspects knocked him out with the LPG tank, as if to make sure that he was dead, Reyes added.

*Jocelyn R. Uy*

### NBI nabs alleged fixers

A TEAM of agents from the National Bureau of Investigation arrested two alleged fixers during an entrapment operation at the bureau's Carriedo office in Sta. Cruz, Manila on Monday. NBI Deputy Director for Special Intelligence Services Edward Villarta presented suspects Rene Rodriguez, of 1027 L. Dagupan St., Tondo Manila and Flora Aguilar, of Sagat Street, Paco, Manila during a press conference yesterday. "This is part of our continuing campaign to get rid of fixers who victimize persons applying for an NBI clearance ," Villarta told reporters. In a report submitted by Field Operations Division head agent Roland Argabioso to Villarta, operatives from the FOD, Intelligence Special Operations Division and Research and Analysis Division conducted surveillance operations in Carriedo Street, Manila based on information that activities involving the fixing of NBI clearance papers were prevalent in the office. Villarta said suspect Aguilar had approached an undercover agent and offered to speed up the processing of his NBI clearance application for a P300 fee.

*Margaux C. Ortiz*

# Medic in diaper case faces raps

## Ma who lost baby accuses gynecologist of negligence

**By DJ Yap**

CHARGES HAVE FINALLY BEEN FILED against the gynecologist who allegedly caused a newborn baby to suffocate to death last month after she put an adult diaper on the mother while in labor.

Dr. Glody Tolentino, a consultant at Sta. Teresita General Hospital in Quezon City, was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in infanticide in the Quezon City prosecutor's office on Tuesday.

Tolentino was accused of negligence by Charlotte Hernandez, the 21-year-old mother of the baby girl who was born earlier than expected and found dead inside the diaper on July 25.

Police believe the infant suffocated because of the diaper the doctor had put on Hernandez hours earlier.

Reached by the INQUIRER yesterday, Tolentino declined to comment upon the advice of her lawyer. "I still don't want to talk about it," she told the INQUIRER.

In her sworn statement, Hernandez said it took her some time to file the case because she needed to recover physically and emotionally.

She narrated the sequence of events from the time she was confined at the hospital under the care of Tolentino—a longtime friend of hers—to the time she gave birth.

During an initial checkup at around 7 p.m. on July 24, Hernandez recalled that the doctor put an adult diaper on her to prevent spillage when her water broke. At midnight, Tolentino gave her Valium pills, causing her to lose consciousness, she added.

Hernandez's mother, Meidel Dumlao, 43, narrated in her own statement that Tolentino returned the following day at around 7 a.m.

But when the doctor removed the diaper, she and the baby's mother were shocked to find that Hernandez had already given birth, but the baby appeared lifeless, Dumlao said.

Tolentino rushed both mother and the baby to the delivery room where she tried to revive the infant. The baby, however, was pronounced dead at 7:25 a.m.

# Roldan still looking for lawyers to replace defense team

**By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.**

BARELY THREE DAYS BEFORE THE deadline set by the Pasig City Regional Trial Court, former congressman and actor Dennis Roldan has not yet found a new lawyer for his ongoing trial on kidnapping charges.

Roldan, who is accused of masterminding the kidnapping of a 3-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy, went to the courthouse on Tuesday afternoon with his wife to say that he has yet to hire a new lawyer, court staff member Eymard Eje told the INQUIRER.

The actor arrived just a few minutes before 5 p.m., Eje added.

Last week, Judge Agnes Reyes-Carpio of the Pasig RTC Branch 261 gave Roldan at least 10 days to get himself a new counsel after lawyers Sigfrid Fortun and Karl Castillo formally withdrew from the case.

The move surprised prosecutors.

Fortun and Castillo withdrew from the case only six days after they managed to convince the court to grant Roldan temporary freedom.

Kidnapping is a nonbailable offense.

But Carpio allowed the former actor to post bail, saying the prosecution's evidence against Roldan was weak.

The 10-day deadline for Roldan to hire a new lawyer will expire tomorrow.

If he fails to secure the services of a new lawyer on time, he would not be able to file his comments on the two motions the prosecution had filed last week to question the judge's decision giving him temporary liberty.

The prosecution had asked Carpio to reconsider her decision to grant Roldan bail.

It also filed a motion asking her to inhibit herself from the case.

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# Makati offers aid to OFWs returning from Lebanon

By Jocelyn R. Uy

HELP IS ON THE WAY FOR FILIPINO workers who were recently repatriated from Lebanon, at least the ones who live in Makati City.

The city government yesterday announced that it would soon launch a livelihood project for its residents who recently returned from Lebanon because of the war between Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants.

Marjorie de Veyra, head of Makati's Social Welfare and Development office, said they were able to track down 26 overseas Filipino workers who live in the city who had returned to their homes.

"We are going to provide them with livelihood programs so they could have alternative sources of income while they are here," De Veyra told reporters.

The 26 OFWs will be trained by the Makati Training Placement and Livelihood Consortia in dressmaking, cosmetology and food processing.

"We will also provide them with a P5,000 loan assistance," De Veyra added.

**LIVELIHOOD** opportunities await 26 returning OFWs who call Makati City their home. JESS YUSON

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Toril, Davao Del 41 Residential Lots ~ LA 60-110 sqm
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METRO MANILA
CALOOCAN
Prop. 1 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 650 sqm FA 564 sqm
Lot 5 Blk 48-D # 86 & 88-A, A. del Mundo St., Grace Park,
Minimun Bid Price: P 8,109,000.00
MANILA
Res'l. Condo, Gotesco Regency Twin Towers, 1127 Concepcion St., Ermita
Prop. 2 - Unit 2104, 21/F FA 210 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot)
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,362,000.00
Prop. 3 - Unit 2203, 22/F FA 210 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot)
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,355,000.00
Prop. 4 - Unit 2204, 22/F FA 210 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot)
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,372,000.00
Prop. 5 - Unit 2303, 23/F FA 210 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot)
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,355,000.00
MAKATI CITY
Prop. 6 - Comm'l. Condo FA 401 sqm
Unit 1-A (G/F) Biltmore Condo., 102 Aguirre St. Legaspi Vill. (w/ 4parking slots)
Minimum Bid Price: P 35,360,000.00
Comm'l. Condo, 88 Corp. Valero cor. Sedeno Sts., Salcedo Village
Prop. 7 - Unit 2801 FA 201.90 sqm (w/ 2 parking slots)
Minimum Bid Price: P 9,083,000.00
Prop. 8 - Unit 2804 FA 201.90 sqm (w/ 2 parking slots)
Minimum Bid Price: P 9,083,000.00
Comm'l. Condo 3rd Flr. Valero Plaza (Cityland Condo. IV) No. 124 Valero St., Salcedo Village
Prop. 9 – Unit 339 FA 30.88 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 10 – Unit 340 FA 30.88 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 11 – Unit 341 FA 30.88 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 12 – Unit 342 FA 31.02 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,241,000.00
Prop. 13 Unit 343 FA 29.76 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,190,000.00
Prop. 14 – Unit 344 FA 29.76 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,190,000.00
Prop. 15 – Unit 345 FA 31.02 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,241,000.00
Prop. 16 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 633 sqm FA 442 sqm
# 1765 & 1767 Garcia St., (Reposo St.) San Miguel Village,
Minimum Bid Price: P 18,160,000.00
Prop. 17 - Comm'l. Lot LA 12,322 sqm
# 2248 Chino Roces Ave., (Pasong Tamo Ext., Kayamanan B.
Minimum Bid Price: P 512,110,000.00
Prop. 18 – Res'l. Condo FA 211 sqm
Lo1 Blk 2 Unit 201 Makati Prime City, St. Paul St., San Antonio,
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,320,000.00
Prop. 19 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 484 sqm FA 825 sqm
#2122 Chino Roces Ave, (formerly Pasong Tamo) Brgy Pio del Pilar, Kayamanan A,
Minimum Bid Price: P 26,435,000.00
PARAÑAQUE CITY
Prop. 20 – Residential Lot LA 572 sqm
L2 Abalone St. Jaleville Subd. San Dionisio,
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,690,000.00
Prop. 21 – Res'l. Condo w/ parking slot
FA 158 sqm
9th Flr. Chateau de Baie Condo, Roxas Boulevard cor. Airport Road, Baclaran,
Minimun Bid Price: P 3,220,000.00
PASIG CITY
Prop. 22 - Comm'l. Lot LA 922 sqm
Lot 16 Blk 5 San Miguel Ave. & Amethyst St., Ortigas Center, Brgy. San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price: P 122,626,000.00
QUEZON CITY
Prop. 23 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 114.30 sqm FA 118 sm
# 5-A Alvarez St., Project 4
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,788,000.00
Prop. 24 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 3,375 sqm
# 18 Samar St., South Triangle
Minimum Bid Price: P 54,000,000.00
Prop. 25 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 684 sqm FA 800 sqm
# 25 Kingsville St., White Plains Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: P 18,072,000.00
Prop. 26 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 160 sqm FA 196 sqm
Lot 9 & 11 Blk 4 Jade St., Silverland Subd., Tandang Sora
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,616,000.00
Prop. 27 - Residential Lot LA 168 sqm
Lot 4-A-1 # 8 J. P. Rizal St., Marilag
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,016,000.00

METRO MANILA
QUEZON CITY
Prop. 28 - Residential Lot LA 532 sqm
Lot 4-A-2 # 8 J. P. Rizal St. Manlag
Minimum Bid Price: P 6,384,000.00
WITHDRAWN
Prop. 30 - Residential Lot LA 154 sqm
Lot B Matutum St., Brgy. Maharlika Sta. Mesa Heights
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,340,000.00
Prop. 31 - Comm'l. / Indus'l. Lot
LA 2,401 sqm
# 114 Gen. Luis St., Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: P 16,928,000.00
RIZAL
Prop. 32 – Residential Lot LA 834 sqm
Lot 5 Blk 2 Salford St., Town & Country Estates, Brgy. Dela Paz, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,282,400.00
SAN JUAN
Prop. 33 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 255 sqm FA 365 sqm
# 26 A. Bonifacio St., Brgy. Kabayanan
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,393,000.00
Prop. 34 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 60 sqm FA 86 sqm
# 22 B-1 U8 Metrohomes Executive Townhomes, F. Benitez St
Minimun Bid Price: P 1,306,000.00
Prop. 35 – Comm'l. Lot LA 352 sqm
Lot 3-A-1 A. Mendoza St., (formerly Paraiso St.)
Minimun Bid Price: P 5,315,000.00
LUZON
BATAAN
WITHDRAWN
CAMARINES SUR
Prop. 37 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 600 sqm FA 660 sqm
L14 & 15 Blk 3 Sonano St., Villa Sorella Subd., Concepcion Grande, Naga City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,103,000.00
CAVITE
Prop. 38 - Comm'l. Lot LA 2,105 sqm
L1-B Molino Rd cor Macaria Ave.Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: P 18,793,000.00
LAGUNA
Prop. 39 – Residential Lot LA 210 sqm
Lot 7 Blk 5 Molave cor. Yakal Sts., Cardil Village, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 430,670.00
Prop. 40 – Res'l Lot LA 223 sqm
Lot 9 Blk 5 Molave cor. Yakal Sts., Cardil Village, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 457,330.00
Prop. 41 – Comm'l. Lot LA 1,039 sqm
Lot 8061-D Maharlika Highway, Brgy. San Francisco, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,195,000.00
Prop. 42 – Comm'l. Lot LA 1,039 sqm
Lot 8061-E Maharlika Highway, Brgy San Francisco, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,195,000.00
OCCIDENTAL MINDORO
Prop. 43 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 440 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 4 Brgy Mangarin, San Jose
Minimum Bid Price: P 130,000.00
QUEZON PROVINCE
Prop. 44 – Residential Lot LA 8,477 sqm
Lot 1182-C Along Diversion Road, Brgy. Isabang, Tayabas
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,148,853.00
Prop. 45 – Residential Lot LA 8,652 sqm
Lot 1183 Along Diversion Road, Brgy Isabang, Tayabas
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,255,147.00
Prop. 46 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 75 sqm FA 47 sqm
Lot 3-H-1 Rosemarie Compound, Brgy. Cotta, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 180,000.00
Prop. 47 – Residential Lot LA 250 sqm
L1 Blk2 Brgy Gulang-gulang,Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 484,524.85
Prop. 48 – Residential Lot LA 180 sqm
L17 Blk3 Brgy Gulang-gulang.LucenaCity
Minimum Bid Price: P 387,619.88
Prop. 49 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 480 sqm FA 592 sqm
Lot 2 & 3 Blk 11 Purok Matahimik, Brgy. Cotta, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,881,000.00
Prop. 50 – Comm'l. Lot LA 5,074 sqm
Lots 2305-B & 2306-A-1-F, Quezon Ave. Brgy 8, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 14,685,000.00

LUZON
TARLAC
Prop. 51 – Ind'l. Lot LA 14,432 sqm
Lot 1-B Romulo Highway, Brgy. San Juan de Mata & Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,348,000.00
Prop. 52 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 712 sqm FA 637 sqm
# 114 Rose St., Villa Soliman Subd., Brgy. Salapungan
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,543,400.00
VISAYAS
AKLAN
Prop. 53 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 1,518 sqm FA 460 sqm
Lot 2 Cepriano St., Brgy. Estancia Municipality of Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,060,000.00
Prop. 54 - Residential Lot LA 470 sqm
Lot 3435-E Along Road-right -of-way, Brgy. Tigayon, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 198,000.00
Prop. 55 - Agro-Res'l. Lot LA 4,668 sqm
Lot 3776 Interior of Brgy. Caticlan, Malay
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,156,000.00
WITHDRAWN
Prop. 57 - Residential Lot LA 271 sqm
Lot10 Blk 5 Mercedes Vill, Brgy. New Buswang
Minimum Bid Price: P 271,000.00
Prop. 58 - Residential Lot LA 277sqm
L11 Blk 5 Mercedes Vill. Brgy New Buswang
Minimum Bid Price: P 277,000.00
CAPIZ
Prop. 59 – Res'l./Agri Lot LA 6,437 sqm
Lot 190-A-2 Along National Highway, Brgy. Ondoy, Ivisan,
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,719,000.00
Prop. 60 - Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 1,500 sqm
Lot 1865-A –1 Along Nat'l Rd (Roxas Ave) Km 1. Brgy Lawaan, Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,034,000.00
Residential Lot, Bo. Andres Bonifacio, Roxas City
Prop. 61 - Lot 956-B-2-D LA 195 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 56,959.00
Prop. 62 - Lot 956-B-2-E LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 59,588.00
Prop. 63 - Lot 956-B-2-F LA 273 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 79,742.00
Prop. 64 - Lot 956-B-2-G LA 273 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 79,742.00
Prop. 65 - Lot 956-B-2-H LA 219 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 63,969.00
ILOILO
Prop. 66 - Residential Lot LA 5,536 sqm
Lot 934-B –3 Molo Arevalo Blvd., Brgy. Sto Niño Sur, Arevalo,
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,575,000.00
Prop. 67 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 1,787 sqm
Lot 2609 Gonzaga St., Purok 14, Poblacion, Pavia
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,674,000.00
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Prop. 68 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement
LA 997 sqm FA 250 sqm
Lot 1 Blk 10 corner Kametal Drive & unnamed Subd., Road, Brgy. Bata, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,917,000.00
Prop. 69 - Comm'l Lot LA 600 sqm
Lot 4-A along Magsaysay Ave., Brgy. Singcang- Airport, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,500,000.00
Prop. 70 - Comm'l Lot LA 730 sqm
Lot 4-B along Magsaysay Ave., Brgy Singcang- Airport,
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,475,000.00
MINDANAO
DAVAO CITY
Prop. 71 - Res'l. Lot LA 600 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 1 Central Park Blvd., Santos Marketing Subd., Bangkal
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,200,000.00
Commercial Lot 8th Ave. & Soliman & Leon Garcia Sts., Brgy. Agdao
Prop. 72 - Lot 2-B LA 916 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,328,000.00
Prop. 73 - Lot 2-C LA 916 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,328,000.00
Prop. 74 - Lot 2-D-1 LA 450 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,600,000.00
Prop. 75 - Lot 2-D-2 LA 5,899 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 47,192,000.00
Prop. 76 - Lot 2-D-2 LA 2,738 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 21,904,000.00

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## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

***Supply and Delivery of 24 Port Switches, GBIC Module and VDSL Network Bridge Extender***

**[Reference No.: PB060510-EL0083]**

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of ***PhP 4,410,022.00*** being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of 24 Port Switches, GBIC Module and VDSL Network Bridge Extender.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *ICT Accessories*. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting August 07, 2006 to September 01, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)***. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **August 21, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** at the same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. of September 04, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount:

| Form of Security | Amount |
|---|---|
| 1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit | 1% of ABC |
| 2. Bank guarantee | 1.5% of ABC |
| 3. Surety bond ( 2.5% OF ABC) | 2.5% of ABC |
| 4. Foreign government guarantee | 100% of ABC |

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on September 04, 2006/2:00 p.m. at the *Admin Conference Room, same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

***National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region***
***Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman***
***MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.***
***Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road***
***Diliman, Quezon City***
***Tel. No.: (632) 981-2235 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432***
***Website: www.transco.ph***

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug 10 & 17, 2006)

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POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

FOR THE **SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF PARTITIONS, FURNITURE, VOICE, DATA AND AUDIO/ VIDEO EQUIPMENT, FLOORING AND RELATED CIVIL/ELECTRICAL/PAINTING AND OTHER WORKS OR SERVICES FOR PSALM'S OFFICE AT 6TH FLOOR BANKMER BUILDING, AYALA AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.**

1. PSALM, through its 2005 Re-enacted Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of **FOUR MILLION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT PESOS AND 99/100** (Php4,356,668.99) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above project. Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PROCURING ENTITY now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF PARTITIONS, FURNITURE, VOICE, DATA AND AUDIO/VIDEO EQUIPMENT, FLOORING AND RELATED CIVIL/ELECTRICAL/PAINTING AND OTHER WORKS OR SERVICES FOR PSALM'S OFFICE AT 6TH FLOOR BANKMER BUILDING, AYALA AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **ITB**. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PROCURING ENTITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00AM-5:00PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00), either in cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PROCURING ENTITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 25 August 2006 at 10:00AM at the 6F Bankmer Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 6 September 2006 *2:00PM*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash or, irrevocable letter of credit, equivalent to one percent (1%) of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 6 September 2006 at 2:15PM at the 6/F Bankmer Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The PROCURING ENTITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corporation
MR. FROILAN A. TAMPINCO
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel: (02) 893-8202; Fax: (02) 840-3896
e-mail: *fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph*

(SGD.) FROILAN A. TAMPINCO
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI—August 17 & 24, 2006)

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## Why doesn't GMA allow impeach bid to prosper?

**ON TARGET**

*Ramon Tulfo*

THE SUPREME Court was just upholding the authority of a military commander over his subordinates when it ruled that two ranking Marine officers could be court-martialed for disobeying the President's order.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered all members of the Executive Department, including the military, not to attend congressional hearings without her permission.

If the high court ruled otherwise, then it would also have denied that the President is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

Marine Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan were charged in a military court for attending a Senate hearing without the President's permission.

Both officers appealed their case in the high tribunal.

The Supreme Court's decision on the Gudani-Balutan case was not surprising as it was just logical.

* * *

Obey orders and ask questions later.

That's the military motto when it comes to receiving instructions from superior officers.

If a superior officer gives unlawful instructions to his men, that's his problem.

He will have to answer for them later. But his orders should be obeyed on the spot without question.

That's military discipline for you.

* * *

The Supreme Court, in the same decision, also said the issue could have been avoided had the President allowed Gudani and Balutan to attend the Senate hearings into the alleged cheating in the 2004 elections.

The high court's words were full of implications: If the President was not hiding anything why did she not allow the officers to attend the Senate investigation?

That is also the question begging for an answer at the House of Representatives: If the President was innocent of any wrongdoing, why would she not allow the impeachment complaint to reach the Senate?

If I were the President, I would tell my boys at the House of Representatives to let the impeachment case follow its normal course.

This means letting the case reach the Senate which would hear the complaint.

If President Macapagal-Arroyo is acquitted in the Senate impeachment trial, she would come out looking immaculately clean.

### DID YOU KNOW

LIKE the names of other areas in Metro Manila, "Taguig" is the result of a mispronounced word. The place's early inhabitants were called "taga-giik" because they were good at threshing rice. Spanish friars, however, found the word difficult to pronounce and called the place "tagui-ig" instead. This was later shortened to "Taguig." A highly urbanized city with a population of 532,641, it has a land area of 33.7 sq km. ***Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research***

# Japan grapples with war shrine fallout

FORMER South Korean comfort women, who served as sexual slaves during World War II, protest Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's war shrine visit in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. AP

TOKYO—JAPAN ON WEDNESDAY GRAPPLED with fallout from Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to a Tokyo war shrine, as diplomats reportedly worked to mend frayed ties with China and South Korea amid a wave of criticism at home.

Police, meanwhile, linked a right-wing extremist to an apparent arson attack against a Koizumi critic.

The blaze late Tuesday destroyed the house of lawmaker Koichi Kato, who had spoken out against Koizumi's visit earlier in the day to Yasukuni Shrine, which critics say glorifies Japanese military conquests.

Police said the 65-year-old suspect in the attack, who was found in the building suffering from an apparently self-inflicted abdominal wound, was a member of a Tokyo-based right-wing group, the kind that staunchly supports Yasukuni.

A separate report said Japan's foreign ministry was trying to arrange a summit with China and South Korea by year's end to improve relations that were further undermined by Koizumi's shrine pilgrimage.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Noriyuki Shikata said it was premature to nail down details but that Tokyo was interested in improving relations with its neighbors and that "there could be efforts along these lines."

Koizumi, who intends to step down next month, dealt a blow to Japan's ties with its neighbors on Tuesday by visiting Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on the especially symbolic date of Aug. 15, the anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II.

Koizumi defended his visit by saying he went to pray for peace and to honor fallen soldiers, not to celebrate militarism. Dozens of lawmakers also prayed there Tuesday. The shrine honors Japan's 2.5 million war dead, including executed war criminals from World War II, and many in Asia and at home see it as proof that Japan has not fully atoned for its past aggression.

The pilgrimage was widely criticized in several newspaper editorials on Wednesday.

The Asahi newspaper said, "It created a deep divide in the country over the question of how to mourn for the war dead, sparked a narrow-minded nationalism and pushed diplomacy into a deadlock."

The Nihon Keizai business newspaper called the trip "self-righteous" and said it would "create the diplomatically damaging impression that Japan still refuses to face up to its bloody militaristic past."

"The next prime minister has to tackle the problems Koizumi will leave behind regarding this issue," the conservative Yomiuri wrote. "Deeper discussions should be held among the Japanese public, too."

To smooth ties, the foreign ministry is reportedly aiming for a meeting between Koizumi's successor and leaders of China and South Korea on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in November or a gathering of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations the following month.

Koizumi made his pilgrimage to the shrine despite complaints from China and South Korea and several days of demonstrations in Tokyo by those who feel the shrine glorifies Japanese militarism. It was his sixth visit there since taking office in 2001. The pilgrimage brought immediate rebukes from Beijing and Seoul, while the US state department urged the three nations to work harder to "build good, constructive, neighborly, transparent relations."

Koizumi is scheduled to leave office at the end of September, which means his successor—likely Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe—will start his term with fresh diplomatic troubles on his hands.

"The Koizumi government will come to an end. For the Chinese side also, there is nothing good about prolonging this problem," a foreign ministry official was quoted as saying by the Yomiuri.

Because Koizumi's successor has not yet been decided and his foreign policy priorities have yet to be set, it is too early to arrange summit meetings, Shikata said. But multilateral meetings are good forums for such summits, he added. *AP*

# Cubans imagine future without Castro

HAVANA—THE GOVERNMENT VIDEO OF A weakened Fidel Castro convalescing in bed brought an undeniable truth home to Cubans: neither he nor Cuba will ever be the same.

The images Cuba's 80-year-old "unconquerable commander in chief" reassured anxious Cubans that he was alive, comfortable and recovering after surgery.

But the post-surgery photographs and video released by state-run media in recent days also are helping Cubans "gradually grow accustomed to" the idea of a Cuba without their "Maximum Leader" at the helm, according to historian Manuel Cuesta-Morua, a government opponent.

"The video gives a positive idea, that he is recovering," said Cuesta-Morua.. "At the same time, it gives me the impression that he doesn't have the ability to return to his duties."

With the details of Castro's illness being treated as a state secret, Cubans and the world are in the dark about how sick he really is, what ails him, and what kind of surgery he had two weeks ago before announcing July 31 he was temporarily ceding power to his younger brother Raul. Cubans have remained calm while awaiting further word from the Communist Party, which has called on them to remain faithful to their leader and his revolution.

"Get well, Comandante," Rolando Alfonso Borges, a Communist Party Central Committee member wrote Tuesday in Granma, the party's newspaper. "You know that our people are the guarantor, that the Revolution came to stay, that we would defend it with blood and fingernails if necessary."

But Cubans have never before seen Castro as fragile as he looked Monday night on the 10-minute video broadcast on state television, which showed him receiving an 80th birthday visit on Sunday from his brother Raul and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. *AP*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Bomb kills 8 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq—A bomb exploded Wednesday in a crowd of day laborers in central Baghdad, killing eight people and wounding 28, police said. British troops intervened to drive off dozens of gunmen who laid siege to the governor's offices in Basra, apparently to avenge a tribal leader killed the day before. *AP*

### Very upset by journalists' kidnapping

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—Palestinian leaders are "very upset" about the kidnapping of two journalists in Gaza and have assured New Zealand diplomats they are doing everything they can to win their release, a New Zealand official said Wednesday. New Zealand's ambassador to Turkey and Israel, Jan Henderson, arrived in Gaza late Tuesday to try to secure the release of New Zealander Olaf Wiig, 36, a cameraman, and American reporter Steve Centanni, 60. The pair were working for Fox News when they were abducted from their TV van Monday near the Palestinian security services' headquarters by unidentified gunmen. *AP*

### 456 died in Ethiopia flash floods

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia—Ethiopia on Wednesday braced for a sharp rise in the death toll from flash floods that have claimed at least 456 lives, left some 250 missing and are spreading under the onslaught of heavy seasonal rains. New floods were reported north of the capital Addis Ababa as efforts continued to rescue up to 20,000 people marooned in the south, where 194 died at the weekend, and locate 250 missing in the east, where 256 drowned last week. Another six people died in the north of the Horn of Africa country. *Reuters*

### China slaughters 217,000 ducks

BEIJING—An outbreak of the lethal H5N1 strain of bird flu killed 1,805 ducklings on a farm in central China, prompting authorities to slaughter 217,000 ducks to contain the infections, the government said Wednesday. The outbreak in Changsha, the capital of Hunan province, was confirmed by laboratory tests on Monday, the agriculture ministry said on its website. It said no cases have been reported at nearby farms. *AP*

### 'Sinful' gossip programs discouraged

JAKARTA—Fitri Komalasari has heard of plans by Indonesia's increasingly vocal Islamic clerics to forbid the watching of celebrity gossip shows. But she says she can't imagine life without daily updates on the marital breakdowns, affairs and quarrels of the rich and famous. "Life without gossip shows would be like vegetables without salt," said Komalasari, 27, who works at a downtown bookstore that also sells spicy entertainment news magazines. "I love to watch them. I love gossiping." Religious leaders say some programs—like one that disclosed an alleged affair by a son of a former president and another that claimed a famous Olympic-winning athlete had an illegitimate child before marrying—are sinful because they are slanderous or exploit people's shameful secrets. *AP*

### Breast implants save woman's life?

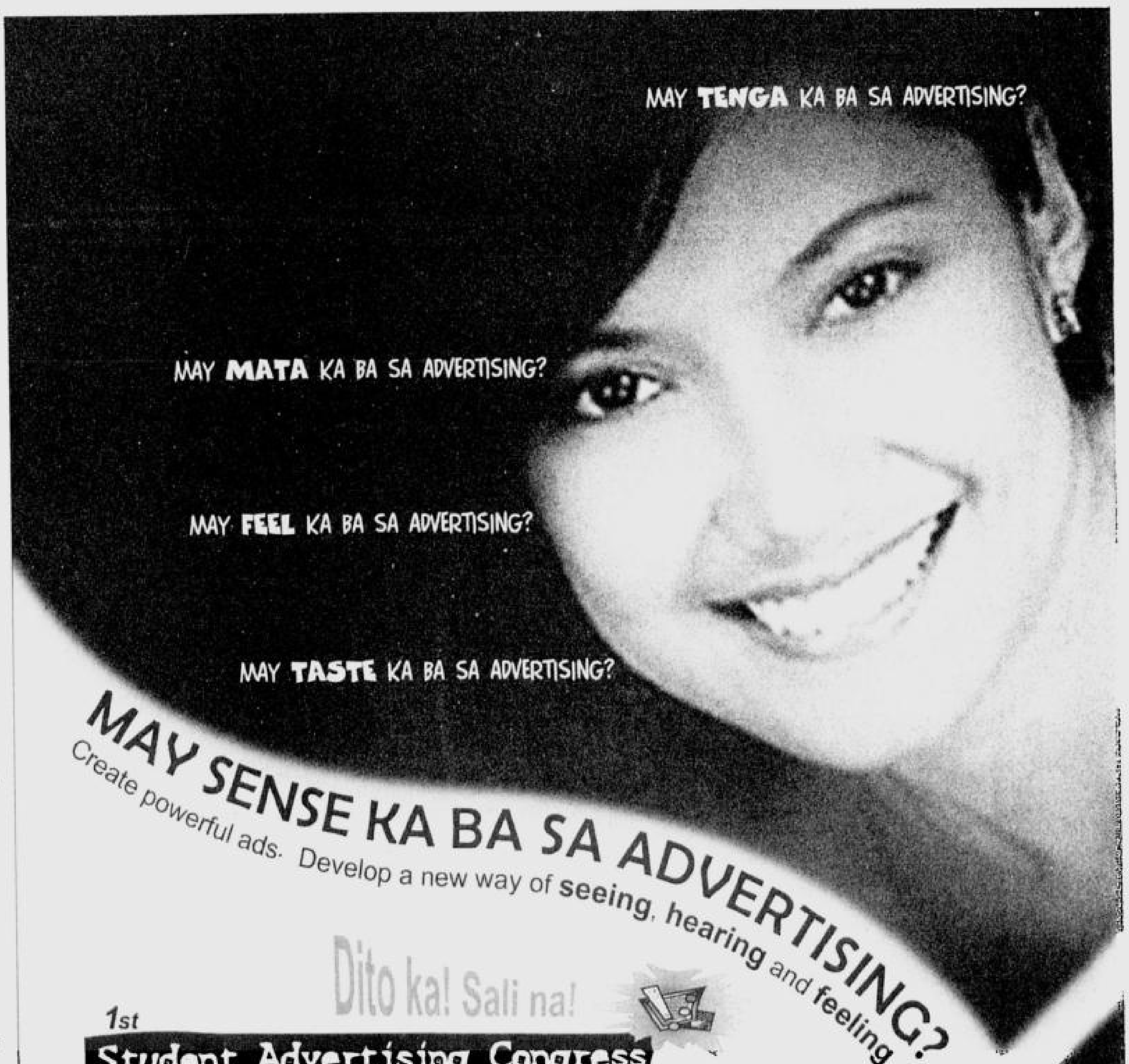
JERUSALEM, Israel—An Israeli woman's breast implants saved her life when she was wounded in a Hezbollah rocket attack during Israel's war with the Lebanese group, a hospital spokesperson said Tuesday. Doctors found shrapnel embedded in the silicone implants, just inches from the 24-year-old's heart. "She was saved from death," said a spokesperson for Nahariya Hospital in northern Israel. The woman has been released from the hospital. *Reuters*

### Current events dwarfed by pop culture

NEW YORK—Three quarters of Americans can correctly identify two of Snow White's seven dwarfs while only a quarter can name two Supreme Court Justices, according to a poll on pop culture released on Monday. According to the poll by Zogby International, commissioned by the makers of a new online game on pop culture called "Gold Rush," 57 percent of Americans could identify J.K. Rowling's fictional boy wizard as Harry Potter, while only 50 percent could name the British prime minister, Tony Blair. Asked what planet Superman was from, 60 percent of the respondents named the fictional planet Krypton, while only 37 percent knew that Mercury is the planet closest to the sun. *Reuters*

### Record exhibit for two-headed animals

ST. LOUIS—Aquarium officials hope an exhibit that opens next week and runs through Sept. 5 will earn a Guinness World Record for the most two-headed animals on display, according to a media report. So far, the World Aquarium at the City Museum has lined up 10 two-headed snakes and turtles, including "We," the aquarium's rare albino two-headed rat snake, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. The other nine animals are owned by a private owner. And if a local reptile dealer with a two-headed snake adds his to the exhibit, the head count would rise to 22, the newspaper reported. *AP*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## The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# War aftermath shatters Israel solidarity

AN ISRAELI soldier walks to a waiting bus in northern Israel. REUTERS

JERUSALEM—AS A MIDEAST TRUCE TOOK hold, the latest casualty became Israel's wartime solidarity, fractured by heated criticism Wednesday of the handling of the war and demands for the military chief's resignation.

Newspapers and radio shows were filled with outrage over Army chief Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz's decision to sell off his stock portfolio just hours before launching Israel's biggest military operation since its 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Halutz declared himself a victim of malicious reporting, saying he has been turned "into a Shylock."

Calls mounted for setting up a commission of inquiry into how the war was run, amid growing dissatisfaction with Israel's leaders and Monday's ceasefire.

The 34-day war against Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas, widely seen here as just, had united Israel's fractured society. Hezbollah was considered a growing threat, after it had vastly expanded its arsenal of missiles in recent years.

But the unity crumbled after Israel's fabled Army pulled out of south Lebanon without crushing Hezbollah or rescuing two soldiers whose July 12 capture by the guerrillas triggered the war.

The war began just two months after Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Defense Minister Amir Peretz, men with little military experience, took office. Surveys in two major Hebrew-language dailies on Wednesday showed low approval ratings for both men

A poll of 500 people by TNS-Teleseker showed support for Olmert sinking to 40 percent after soaring to 78 percent in the first two weeks of the offensive. Peretz' approval rating plunged to 28 percent from 61 percent, according to the poll, which has a margin of error of 4.4 percent. A second poll, by the Dahaf Research Institute, showed 57 percent calling for his resignation.

The Dahaf poll, which had a margin of error of 4.5 percent, showed 70 percent opposed to a ceasefire that did not include the return of the captured soldiers, and 69 percent backing an official inquiry into the war's prosecution. TNS' poll showed 53 percent of respondents against the truce, and 67 percent supporting an inquiry.

Under the terms of the truce, Israel is to withdraw from southern Lebanon, and 15,000 Lebanese Army forces, backed by a similar number of UN peacekeepers, are to patrol the territory, which had been controlled by Hezbollah before the war. Critics of the truce question the ability of the new force to keep Hezbollah at bay.

Also under fire is Halutz's decision to rely heavily on air strikes in the first phase of the war. In another controversial decision, a massive ground offensive was ordered just as a ceasefire deal was within reach. More than 30 Israeli soldiers died after the UN Security Council had already approved the truce deal.

The government has said its final push deep into Lebanon was necessary to maximize gains against Hezbollah before the ceasefire.

One of the last-phase casualties was Staff Sgt. Uri Grossman, the son of internationally acclaimed novelist David Grossman. The elder Grossman supported the war, but two days before his son was killed, he condemned the last-ditch campaign as dangerous and counterproductive. *AP*

# A bittersweet day in Beirut: 'We won, but at what cost?'

**By Walden Bello**

*(Editor's Note: The writer is a professor of sociology at the University of the Philippines and executive director of the research and advocacy institute Focus on the Global South based in Bangkok. He is one of the members of the International Civil Society and Parliamentary Peace Mission to Lebanon.)*

THE BITTERSWEET MOOD IN BEIRUT on Monday when the ceasefire took effect was perhaps best expressed by Rahul, a taxi driver. "We won, but at what cost? So many people displaced, so many dead, so many buildings destroyed," he told me.

As soon as the cessation of hostilities came into effect at 8 a.m., cars and vans and trucks started to roll down to the south as people who took refuge in Beirut and other parts of the country went back to their homes.

"They'll most likely find their houses gone, but their lands will still be there and there's really no place like home," said Anwar El Khalil, a member of Parliament representing the area of Marieyoun, the site of the strafing of a civilian convoy by Israeli planes last week.

### The losers

There is no doubt about who the big loser was in the war. Everyone we talked to on this day of national pride agreed with the editorial in the Daily Star, Lebanon's liberal English language paper: "The Israeli government has been discredited and serious wrinkles in the US-Israeli relationship have been exposed. The Israelis now have to contend with a political arena that is in disarray."

Perhaps the prevailing mood in the Israeli establishment is reflected in Haaretz commentator Zeev Schiff's call for a "reconsideration of the military and strategic management after the facts have proved that the army is no longer capable of adapting to the kind of warfare imposed by Hezbollah."

Another loser is the United States. For many Lebanese politicians and analysts, there is a strong conviction that this war had been planned by Washington way before the Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid in early July.

Destruction of the Hezbollah is perhaps even more vital to the United States than Israel, according to Henri Barkey, chair of Lehigh University's International Relations Department and a former member of the US Department of State's Policy Planning Staff.

In a recent article, Barkey claims that while Israel can live with a Hezbollah driven north of the Litani River, the United States cannot.

According to Barkey, "it (Hezbollah) represents the nightmarish metamorphosis of a well supplied and trained militia. If it can work in Lebanon, the model can be emulated elsewhere around the world... Hezbollah is far more sophisticated and entrenched than al-Qaida. It is impossible to defeat it without inflicting civilian casualties. Therein lies Hezbollah's strength: It calculates that the outside world will relent in the face of civilian casualties."

### The victor

In the monthlong war, most Lebanese as well as the country's political groups have united in supporting the struggle by the Hezbollah, a Shiite Muslim organization, against Israeli aggression.

No less than Maronite Christian President Emile Lahoud praised "the leadership of Hezbollah in the national resistance."

Ali Fayyad, head of the Hezbollah's Consultative Center for Studies and Documentation, cited three main reasons for Hezbollah's victory—the use of rockets to neutralize Israeli air power and give Hezbollah an offensive air capability without airplanes; the use of guerrilla warfare, which stymied an Israeli Army used to fighting conventional Arab armies; and the Hezbollah fighter who is "not only a guerrilla trained in self-reliance but is also filled with ideological conviction that he is on the right track."

On the evening of Aug. 14, there were motorcades celebrating Hezbollah and its general secretary, Hassan Nasrallah, in Beirut. Everyone tuned in when Nasrallah went on television at 9 p.m. to announce what he considered was a "tremendous strategic victory for Lebanon" and announced Hezbollah's preparedness to withdraw its fighters behind the Litani River.

"There is our Arab Che Guevara... with a turban," said a high official of the Lebanese Communist Party, perhaps the epitome of secular politics in Lebanon.

# Israeli air strike kills 2 in Gaza

GAZA CITY, GAZA Strip—An Israeli air strike blew up a house in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis early Wednesday, killing two people and wounding at least four others, officials said.

The attack completely destroyed the house, crushing two people to death and wounding four neighbors, hospital officials said.

The army said the house was used as a weapons storehouse by militants and that the residents were warned to leave before the strike.

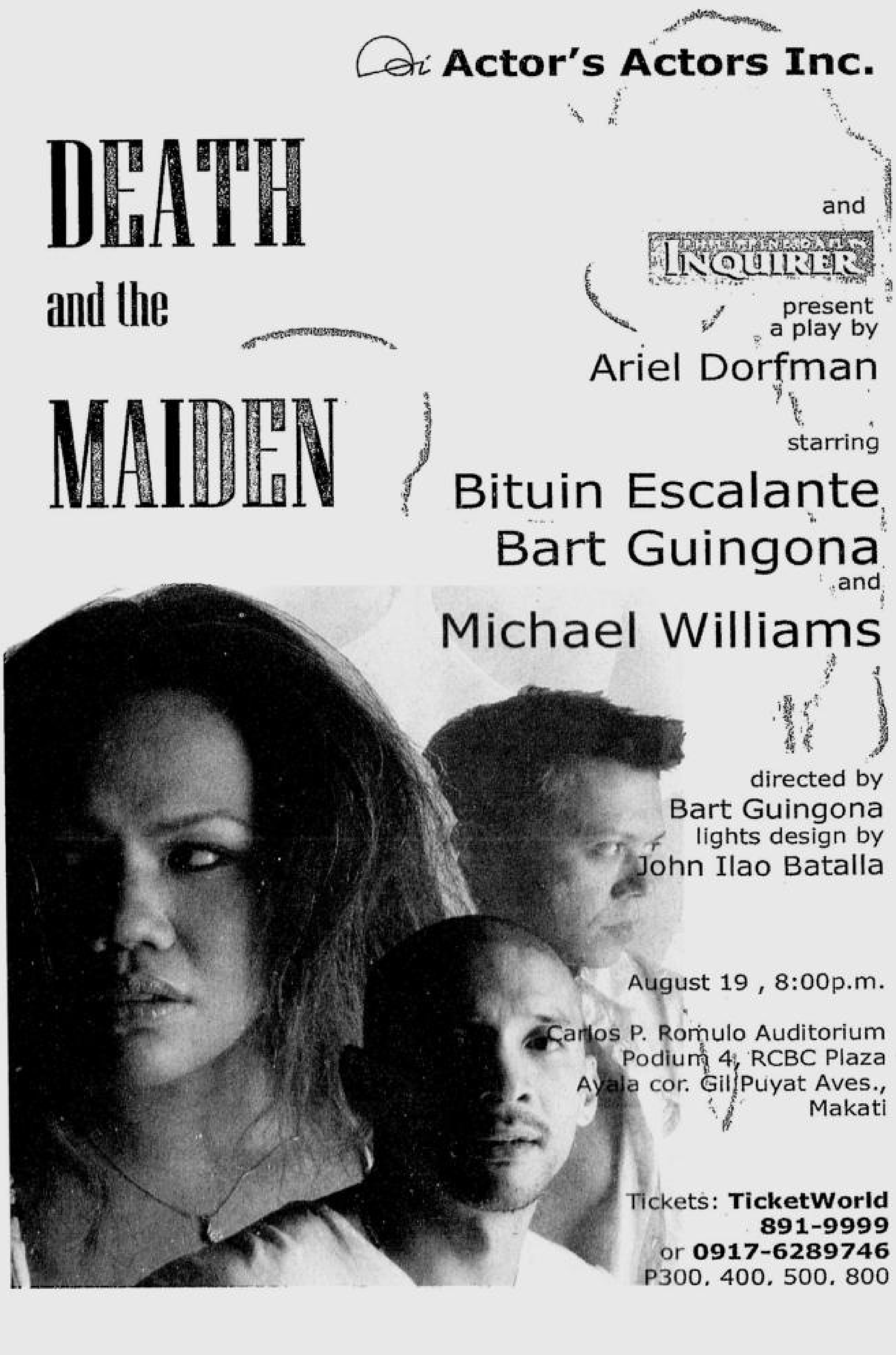
However, neighbors said residents of the house had apparently ignored the warnings.

Hundreds of people gathered at the site as rescue workers dug amid the rubble and large concrete blocks, pulling out two badly mangled bodies

The house belonged to Hassan Shaath, a local leader for the Al Aqsa militant group, but he was not among the casualties, family members said.

They identified the two dead men as Ibrahim Shaath, also an Al Aqsa member, and his father Ha'assan. They were cousins of the owner.

Also Wednesday, the army said it shot two armed Palestinians trying to infiltrate Israel from Gaza. It later turned over the body of one dead militant, Palestinian security officials and rescue service workers said. *AP*



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National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
TransCo

**Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid**

*Construction of Security Office at SLOM*

A two-storey security office building with roof deck is proposed to constructed inside National Transmission Corporation (NTC)-SLOM compound in San Vicente Biñan, Laguna. It shall be made of reinforced concrete and steel materials and with dimensions of approximately 6mx10m.

*[TRANS-06-CSOSLOM-EG-18]*

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Three Million Four Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Four & 35/100* ***(Php3,479,694.35)*** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Construction of Security Office at SLOM)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the construction of security office at SLOM. Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license with License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, General Building" and Registration Particular of at least: "Small B-Building and Industrial Plant"***, respectively, have completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving construction of buildings. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***September 06, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs.

Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***120 calendar days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No: 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***August 18-September 04, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,000.00.*** They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***September 06, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***September 06, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION****-SLOM Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on September 27-29, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***Php2,000.00.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***September 27-29, 2006, 8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***October 04, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Biñan, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***October 18, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R. A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***October 18, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

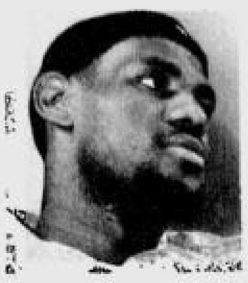
Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

*National Transmission Corporation - South Luzon Operations & Maintenance*
*Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024*
*Mr. Ruben G. Castuera - BAC Chairman*
*(02) 981-4576 to78 local 4094; 4086; 4053*
*rgcastuera@transco.ph*
*(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007*
*www.transco.ph.*

(Sgd.) **RUBEN G. CASTUERA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI-August 17 & 26, 2006)



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SPORTS

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LEONARDO Andam: Still in contention

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

# Manila's softball bid dims in World Series

**KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN—Another split all but derailed Team Manila's campaign in the Big League (16-18) Softball World Series Tuesday at the Vanderberg Park here.**

The Manilans blew a 2-0 lead and took a stinging 3-2 loss from Antelope Valley of California in the morning although they recovered somewhat with a 6-2 victory over Charleston of West Virginia in the afternoon.

But with a 2-2 win-loss record, the Filipinos have to win their remaining four games in the round robin series to salvage one of two slots in the championship showdown Saturday.

As it is, District 5 (Connecticut) and District 9 (Michigan) are on top of the heap with 4-0 records with host District 2 (Michigan) at 3-0.

The Asia-Pacific champion Filipinos are tied for fourth with District 51 (California).

A solo home run by by Kelsie Blankemeyer sparked Antelope's big surge that silenced the delegation from Manila.

The Manilans' defense then collapsed with consecutive errors by Wenchie Bacarisas, Vivian Deala and Nelsa Delagente loading.

Antelope scored two more runs on base-on-balls to doom their rivals.

The Manilans pulled their act together in the afternoon against the West Virginians thanks to a combined two-hitter by comebacking Chat Lorevie Ditchon and lefty Felixwinda Custodio.

Ditchon, who had not pitched a competitive game for more than a year, hurled a two-hitter in a four-inning start, while Custodio, a first-timer in international play, surrendered only one hit in the next three innings.

While the duo were starving the opposition, their teammates feasted on a pair of West Virginian hurlers with seven hits that produced three runs each at the bottom of the first and second frames.

Catcher Dorie Mae Cabuguason went two-of-four while first base girl Jessel Taladtad, rightfielder Nelsa Delagente, Custodio herself, second base girl Thinsey de Jose and shortstop Wenchie Bacariss had one RBI each.

Taladtad, Ditchon, Delagente and Custodio had a run each.

# Air21 gives fourth pick to San Mig

AIR21 HAS GIVEN UP ITS NO. 4 OVERALL pick in the coming Philippine Basketball Association rookie draft and swapped it for San Miguel Beer's 2008 first-round pick, an Express official confirmed yesterday.

It has been floated weeks ago that Air21 would have no need for the fourth overall pick since the Express have only one slot left in their roster which could be filled up in the freshman lottery.

"Our lineup is already complete. We have one spot left so we will have no use for the No. 4 pick," said Air21 president and team governor Lito Alvarez, whose Express owns the second overall pick in the draft.

"We will use that pick to fill up the roster," he added.

Ronald Tubid and Gary David have now recovered from injuries sustained during the season-ending Philippine Cup last conference while the 6-foot-9 Yancy De Ocampo got a fresh two-year offer.

"He (De Ocampo) wouldn't be shortchanged with that offer. But he told us he will need a few more days to find his value in the PBA and we'll wait for his decision," said Alvarez.

Since Kelly Williams passed the stringent requirements in the draft, top overall pick-holder Sta. Lucia Realty has been torn between the Filipino-American and FEU's Arwind Santos.

Should the Realtors ignore the 6-foot-4 Santos, the Express wouldn't think twice in grabbing the two-time UAAP MVP, Alvarez said.

With three first-rounders at their disposal, the Beermen, who also own the third and fifth overall picks, could now infuse young blood into their aging lineup. *June Navarro*

# Veterans Corteza, Andam bounce back

**By Musong R. Castillo**

LEE VAN CORTEZA AND LEONARDO Andam, veteran internationalists who were pushed to the wall after opening-day tumbles, thundered past their loser's bracket foes last night in the 2006 BSCP National Pool championship.

Corteza, a multiple gold medal winner in the Southeast Asian Games, ripped 52-year-old Ramilo Vita, 9-2, while Andam erased a 2-3 deficit against Benedicto Baay to prevail, 9-3, and advance from the opposite side of the draw.

Both got back on track towards a shot at the P1 million champion's purse after ditching the form that had them absorbing setbacks from little known opponents on Tuesday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

"That's the way this game is," Corteza, who contributed an 8-ball silver and a 9-ball gold medal to the Philippines' overall SEAG victory last December, said in Filipino. "I just could not get it going last night.

"Today I couldn't seem to do anything wrong," added the 27-year-old Corteza, who lost, 6-9, to Elmer Kalaquian late in the opening round.

Corteza said that he is using this tournament to prime up for the rich United States Open set late next month, while Andam is seeing action just to get back in the groove after a spate of injuries sidelined him after the SEAG.

After losing to Napoleon Labrador, 6-9 on Tuesday, Andam showed the form that made him a byword in the local circuit, erasing his early one-rack deficit with ease.

The 47-year-old won the last seven racks—never giving Baay a chance—to earn a collision with Victor Arpilleda, who won his first-round match but was relegated to the loser's bracket after falling to Mario Tolentino, 9-5.

Corteza, who has a total of six gold and two silver medals in a SEAG career that dates back to the 1999, next clashes with unheralded Venancio Tanio.

Reigning US Open champ and former World Pool king Alex Pagulayan, Jose "Amang" Parica, and most of the top seeds who are still in the winner's bracket, were seeing action at presstime.

Pagulayan advanced to the third round after a 9-7 win over Edgar Acaba, while Parica, No. 3 in this tournament, tripped Jorge Dacer, 9-5, before coasting past Roland dela Cruz, 9-4.

# Gallego joining IPT tilt

FILIPINO RAMIL Gallego will join his more illustrious compatriots in the 2006 International Pool Tour 8-ball shoot-out in Reno, Nevada, on Sept. 2-10 after his stint in the ongoing 2006 BSCP National Championships 9-ball Open.

The Japan-based Gallego from Bacolod City earned his IPT card after winning the qualification tournament in Hard Times Billiards in Los Angeles, California, last July.

Other Filipino cue masters seeing in action in the IPT grand finale staking a total pot of $3-million are Filipino stars Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Alex Pagulayan, Marlon Manalo, Dennis Orcollo, Jose "Amang" Parica and Santos Sambajon.

"*Talagang pinaghandaan ko ang* IPT grand finale next month," said Gallego. "Hope *manalo tayo.*"

Ronato Alcano, Antonio Lining and Ramon Mistica are schedules to play in the qualification tournament before the end of the month.

Qualifiers are guaranteed $5,000 in the main draw.

***Marlon Bernardo, contributor***

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# Eagles seek No. 7 vs Falcons today

WELL-RESTED AND DEFINITELY INspired, unbeaten Ateneo resumes its second-round campaign against Adamson today in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the PhilSports Arena.

The Eagles will be coming off a 10-day break when they tangle with the Falcons at 4 p.m. gunning for a seventh straight victory.

"Gradually, we're starting to get back into our game, particularly our first five," said coach Norman Black after Ateneo posted a recent 114-78 rout over the Santo Tomas Tigers to cap their first-round schedule with a 6-0 record.

"We had a good run over the summer, but we had not played that way in the UAAP," noted Black. "The first five is really the core of this team and they're starting to get back their momentum."

Coach Bert Flores, too, believes the Far Eastern Tamaraws have found their rhythm midway through the season.

"We're peaking, maybe we're already at 75 percent," said Flores of the defending champion Tamaraws, who will tackle the University of the Philippines Maroons earlier at 2 p.m.

The Tamaraws seek their fourth consecutive victory after opening the season with four straight losses.

"It's still our defense (that keyed our wins), but we still have to improve our rebounding," said Flores.

While the Eagles claim to have rediscovered their dominating form, they have to display it again versus the team they've beaten by the slimmest of margins.

In their first encounter, Chris Tiu buried a triple in the dying seconds to lift the Eagles to a 73-72 decision over the Falcons.

"I never go into the game expecting anything," said Black. "I just coach the way it is. If it's a close game, I coach a close game. If it's a large margin, so be it."

JC Intal delivered 24 points and 10 rebounds to lead a strong showing by the Eagles' starting five, who all finished in double figures against the Tigers last week.

The Tamaraws, banking on veterans Jeff Chan, Jonas Villanueva and RB Mangahas, are coming off a 79-64 triumph over the Falcons last Saturday.

Although the Tamaraws ended their early slide with a 94-86 win over the Maroons, Flores remains concerned with UP's talented freshmen.

Last Sunday, rookie VJ Serios exploded for 22 points and 10 rebounds against the National U Bulldogs. *Jasmine W. Payo*

**GAMES TODAY**
*(Philsports Arena)*
9 a.m.—FEU vs UP (Jrs)
10:30 a.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Jrs)
12 noon-NU vs UE (Jrs)
2 p.m.—FEU vs UP (Srs)
4 p.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo (Srs)

# Lions, Knights gain Final 4

By Marc Anthony Reyes

**WITH A SIMILAR SHOW OF FORCE, San Beda and defending champion Letran officially secured two of the Final Four berths yesterday in the NCAA senior basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.**

The SBC Lions sized up the Perpetual Help Altas in the first quarter before unleashing their full might to score a 77-57 rout even as the Knights showcased their vaunted defense before cruising to a 62-56 victory over San Sebastian's Stags.

The Lions and the Knights kept their first place tie at 10-1 with the Philippine Christian Dolphins (8-1) now the only team with a chance of spoiling their bid for the twice-to-beat incentives reserved for the top two squads going into the semifinals.

The Lions allowed the Altas to take an early 12-5 lead before roaring to their ninth successive win.

Rookie point guard Pong Escobal led San Beda with 13 points, while veteran forward Yousif Aljamal added 12. Nigerian hotshot Samuel Ekwe wound up with five points but pulled down 10 rebounds as the Lions dominated the boards, 52-30.

The Knights allowed just five in the second quarter and seven in the third period to fashion out their fourth straight triumph.

San Sebastian and Perpetual thus both suffered their eighth losses in 11 games and they now must win all their three remaining games to stay alive for a rubber match for the last Final Four berth.

"We simply forgot about our offense and worked hard on defense," said Letran coach Louie Alas, who noted that his Knights laid out an unforgiving defense for "35 solid minutes" starting from the opening buzzer.

Earlier, the Staglets drubbed the Squires, 86-66, to score their sixth win against two losses. The Squires suffered their 10th loss in as many games.

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Letran | 10 | 1 |
| San Beda | 10 | 1 |
| PCU | 8 | 3 |
| Mapua | 6 | 5 |
| Perpetual | 3 | 8 |
| San Sebastian | 3 | 8 |
| Jose Rizal | 3 | 8 |
| St. Benilde | 1 | 10 |

**The scores:**

**Second Game**

**LETRAN 62**—Bautista 14, Aban 13, Daa 9, Dangcal 6, Quinday 6, Faundo 5, Mondragon 4, Guevarra 3, Balneg 2, Jazul 0, Realista 0, Foronda 0.

**SAN SEBASTIAN 56** — Viray 15, Vicente 9, Bulawan 7, Raymundo 6, Delgado 5, Najorda 4, Juan 4, Ballesteros 2, De Leon 2, Lindaya 1, Tioseco 1, Sagad 0, Aquino 0, Quiamco 0.

**Quarters:** 14-16, 33-21, 43-28, 62-56.

**Third Game**

**SAN BEDA 77** —Escobal 13, Aljamal 12, Tecson 10, Evangelista 8, Gamalinda 8, Menor 7, Ekwe 5, Maggay 4, Taupa 4, Angeles 3, Taganas 2, Antonio 1, Espinosa 0.

**PERPETUAL 57** —Kong 11, Reyes 10, Misa 10, Bauzon 7, Perturbos 5, Manuel 5, Lee 5, Mendoza 4, Racho 0, Galabin 0.

**Quarters:** 12-18, 36-28, 61-38, 77-57.

SAN Sebastian's Franz Delgado (right) protects the ball against Letran's Boyet Bautista in their game yesterday.

RYAN LIM.

# PBA now wants own venue

## IN HUDDLE

*Beth Celis*

COLORFUL GIFT bags with the "SMART Buddy" logo were on the conference table when the PBA governors walked in for what was expected to be a marathon meeting at the huge function room of the posh Landmark Hotel in Macau.

Each gift bag for the governors contained a box. Inside it was a late model cell phone, a present from new PBA chair Ricky Vargas.

The note attached read: "An appreciation and remembrance for your presence in our first PBA board meeting in Macau to kick off the 2006-2007 season planning conference. This phone includes a Talk 'N Text prepared SIMcard. If used with other SIMcard providers, phone will automatically self-destruct."—(signed) Ricky.

Needless to say, the unexpected gift caused a mild commotion, delaying the formal start of the meeting by a few minutes. Nobody minded, as the governors took a close look at their new acquisition and thanked the donor.

***

Among the plans approved by the board in the planning session were the reduction of ticket prices, review and amendment of policies, constitution and by-laws, a more vigorous media campaign and the production of a 30-minute television show designed to compliment the main product which is basketball.

The league is investing an initial P6 million for the project, which the board has billed "PBA Entertainment." Next to the PBA venue plan, Ricky V. is most excited about this project.

The league will produce the television show which is envisioned to be income-generating.

***

The reduction in ticket prices actually started during Ely Capacio's term when the general admission ticket was pegged at P5.

Ely said they had done some pencil-pushing prior to this and discovered that they were only making P20,000 net per game from the upper areas of the Araneta Coliseum.

Now I'm not sure if these figures include the upper box areas because in the Macau meeting, the board decided to reduce the cost of the upper box tickets by 30 percent.

By lowering the ticket prices, Ely said more people would be able to watch the game live, and this would look good on television and more palatable to advertisers.

***

For awhile there, Ricky V's spirit was dampened when he learned that SM's Henry Sy also had serious plans to build a sports coliseum.

But with the positive, enthusiastic response of the board to the idea of the league having its own coliseum, his sagging spirit was lifted.

Ricky was particularly inspired when San Miguel showed interest in the plan, which Ginebra governor Robert Non had already broached to SMC top honchos Danding Cojuangco and Ramon Ang.

With the country's two giant conglomerates joining hands to spearhead the billion-peso project, it is expected to be completed in the next three to four years.

"For all that money we poured into coliseum rental for the past 10 years, we should have been able to (already) erect our own venue," observed Robert.

***

"We already have a site: the government-owned property at the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue in Quezon City. Actually, we had already negotiated with QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte last year for a 75-year lease of this property," PBA commissioner Noli Eala disclosed.

The chair said he was willing to give up a championship to turn the project into reality.

Alaska's Joaqui Trillo said he was willing to give up two.

Welcoat's Raymond Yu, who generously co-hosted the Macau trip with partner Terry Que, pledged to subsidize the painting of the complex, while vice chair Tony Chua, next year's chair, offered to decline his post in favor of extending the incumbent's term.

Tony said Ricky should stay "in office until the venue is completed."

***

While in Macau, Welcoat proposed a trade with Ginebra San Miguel: Rommel Adducul for the Dragons' first and second round draft rights (10th and 11th picks) for the season.

Ginebra wanted next year's pick.

New GSM coach Jong Uichico, who called from Manila, didn't seem too keen on the trade.

***

Text message from Solar's Peter Chanliong in Las Vegas re his assessment of the Brian Viloria-Niño Romero fight:

"Brian's listless performance is not attributable to a lack of talent as he is clearly superior in skills to El Niño. He lost in a situation where he is supposed to win.

"The million $ question is, who was that person out there and where was Brian? Is there a post-traumatic syndrome due to the near death of opponent Raul Contreras which has taken his heart and mind subconsciously out of his game?"

## SPORTSWATCH

### John O five wins

JOHN O CONTINUED ITS WINNING RUN IN THE 10th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament Monday by downing King's Bakeshop, 78-74, at the Lyceum gym. With its fifth straight victory, John O remained on top of the eight-team field with a 5-0 record. Skytex Foam subdued Lyceum Universities, 94-86, and 5th Avenue surprised Spring-Tagaytay, 86-82, in other games. Fifth Avenue overcame a shaky first half performance to turn back the Spring-Tagaytay squad of NBC executives Natahniel "Tac" Padilla and Tagaytay City Mayor Bambol Tolentino.

### Mountain bike tour

THE PHILIPPINE MOUNTAIN BIKE CHAMPIONSHIP Pro Tour 2006 National Finals will be held on Sept. 1 and 2, 7 a.m. onward at Timberland Heights, San Mateo, Rizal. The event is presented by San Miguel Light. Mountain bike riders all over the country who qualified on the three elimination legs—NCR and Southern Luzon, Northern Luzon and Vis/Min—will compete for the best downhill racer for novice, women, beginner and the best cross country racer, age group for youth 13 to 17, junior 18 to 30, senior 31 to 40, masters 40 and above and women division. The pro circuit category both for downhill and cross country will be the highlight of the event. National team members for mountain bike cross country—Eboy Quinones, Mark Aleonar and Eric Feliciano—will compete for the national championship while for the downhill category, Joey Barba of Dumaguete is already crowned national champion after he swept the three legs. Call Urge hotline at (632) 889-5914 or e-mail urge_mag@yahoo.com.

### MCC clinic still open

A SECOND BATCH OF ENROLLEES FOR THE FIFTH series of the Milo Checkmate Saturday- and –Sunday only clinic will still be accepted until Aug. 19 and 20 at the lower 2F of St. Francis Square behind SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Open to kids who are 5-18 years old, the clinic at SFS is being conducted during Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 2:30-6 p.m. Courses offered are for preparatory, beginners, intermediate and advance. For details, call 826-8560 and 0916-6608-712 or 0916-852-1069.

CHAMPS: Members of the Holy Child School of Davao and the University of San Carlos whoop it up with Adidas officials after ruling the Adidas Streetball national finals.

# Sherwood posts FL win No. 2

RAYMUND BUNQUIN AND RICKY DE Castro delivered the clinching point as Sherwood Hills thwarted sister team Camp John Hay, 3-1, for its third straight victory in the Federation Golf League matches in various venues over the weekend.

Bunquin and De Castro took the high-low match on the last hole in the victory.

Only the blowout win of the Sherwood tandem of Erwin Vinluan-Joey Arguelles in scramble ended earlier than the last hole as Junjun Plana-Boy Escano halved the greensomes point with Camp John Hay's Jeric Hechanova/Jun Cabiles. Larry Tojino/Oca Patricio also split the aggregate point with Ben Liclican/Fred Puckett.

Sherwood remained a point ahead of idle Southwoods with 6 points in Group 2. In another match, Valley slapped a third straight loss on Sta. Elena to move up to third place at 4 points.

Orchard grabbed the lead in Group 1 after a 3-1 victory over Riviera. Wolen Superal-Andy Vasquez (high-low) and Aian Arcilla-Yayi Escuadro (aggregate) won on the last hole and Raymond Sangil-Nestor Sevilla added a third point in the scramble.

(Win-Loss-Draw-Points)Group 1: Orchard 2-1-1-5, Eastridge 1-1-1-4, Forest Hills 1-0-2-4, Wack Wack 1-1-1-3, Riviera 0-2-1-1; Group 2: Sherwood Hills 3-0-0-6, Southwoods 2-1-0-5, , Valley 2-1-0-4, Sta. Elena 0-3-0-0, Camp John Hay 0-2-0-0; Group 3: Northwoods 1-1-1-4, CDC-Mimosa 2-1-0-4, Alabang 1-0-1-3, Highlands 0-2-2-2, Canlubang 0-0-2-2

# Malarayat Mid-Am Aug. 25-26

LIPA CITY—A STELLAR FIELD LED by defending champion Jinggy Tuazon see action in the fifth staging of the Mt. Malarayat Mid-Am championships next Friday at the sprawling complex's three nines here.

Tuason, whose closest brush to fame before turning back Tommy Manotoc here last year was a losing stint in the Final Four of the RP Amateurs in the early 1980s, will have his hands full with a slew of contenders entered.

Former Philippine Amateur champion Francis Gaston and World Amateur veteran Dave Hernandez are among those set to crowd Tuason in his chase to win the second major title of his career.

Reigning Asia-Pacific Senior champ Iggy Clavecilla is also in the roster, together with Canlubang mainstay Abe Rosal and Raymund Sangil, making the chase for the Open division of the tournament sponsored by Active Group Inc. and Pacsports interesting.

There will be a total of eight champions to be named in the two-day, 36-hole event.

# Gaddi, 7, joining Asian Karting Open

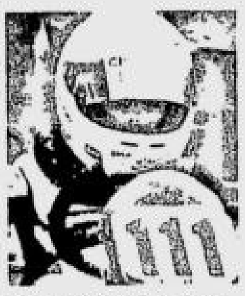
FOR CHRISTIAN GADDI, IT'S NOT ALWAYS play when it comes to karting.

The 7-year-old Gaddi will be making his first trip abroad to compete against kids his age in the mini-ROK di of the Asian Karting Open Championship on Aug. 26-27 in Sentul, Indonesia.

While he is thrilled with the idea of making new friends and gaining new experiences in a new place, the real purpose of their trip is not lost on Gaddi and his three teammates. They will go there to compete and carry the country's colors.

The task of winning, however, mainly lies on Gaddi, the smallest but certainly the most talented of the group. Gaddi, after all, won the first leg of the Asian Karting Championship held in Carmona, Cavite, last June, and is running fourth overall with seven legs to go.

Christian, a first-grader at Claret School in Quezon City being backed by AJ Braga of Mega Exchange, is given all the support by his father Justin, a drag racing enthusiast, and mother Teena of Globe Asiatic Realty.



CHRISTIAN Gaddi:

# Espiritu leads CS14 cast

DID YOU KNOW THAT VICTOR ESPIRITU once beat American ace Floyd Landis.

In 2000, the former Marlboro Tour champion outsprinted Landis, then representing Team Mercury of the US, in the criterium race of the Tour de Langkawi's Millennium race.

Six years later this year, Landis ruled the Tour de France although he's likely to be stripped of his crown after testing positive of a prohibited substance.

In the 4th Cycling Search Invitational (CSI4) on Saturday at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City, Espiritu will lead an elite cast in the Pro-Open category, as he and four other teammates defend the title they won in the same race in the third edition.

Slated to coincide with the celebration of Araw Ng Quezon City in cooperation with the city government headed by Mayor Sonny Belmonte, this year's kick-off leg starts at 8 a.m.

The criterium race, presented by Philpost through Treo Sales & Management Corp., and sponsored by PCSO, Lamoiyan Corp., Landbank, Smart, Speed, Pagcor and Burlington will have four categories on tap, including the People's Race, a special race for local riders.

Race director Ric Rodriguez, said he expects the Quezon City criterium race, to be a wide-open contest among Espiritu, Lloyd Reynante of GHQ-HSC and Elmer Atilano of Agnes Bakeshop.

PRINCE TOURNEY: PCA's Julius Kraut makes a forehand return while former RP Davis Cupper Michael Misa looks on during their semifinal match against Mandaluyong Tennis Club's Dino Jimenez and Dennis Sta. Cruz in the Prince Home and Away Invitational Team Tennis tournament last Saturday at the PCA indoor shell courts. Kraut and Misa prevailed, 8-7.

# Tierro advances in Indonesia

MANADO, INDONESIA—FILIPINO ACE Patrick John Tierro beat Chinese Taipei's Hsien-Yin Peng, 6-4, 6-1, yesterday to advance to the second round of the ITF/ATP $10,000 Futures Week 3 here.

The victory sent the fifth-seeded Tierro, a member of the RP Davis Cup team, up against Australian Anthony Tuong, who won, 6-4, (ret.) after Korean Chul-Hee Lee injured his ankle.

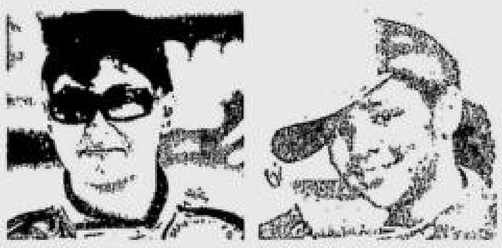
Chinese-Taipei's Tsung-Hua Yang scored the day's major upset when he ousted second seed and Week 2 winner Yaoki Ishii of Japan, 6-2, 4-6, 6-0.

Indonesia's Prima Simpatiaji, the 2005 SEA Games bronze medalist who is seeded seventh here, survived 2006 Mitsubishi International Juniors champion Hsin-Han Lee of Chinese Taipei, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, to join top seed Takahiro Terachi of Japan in the next round.

Terachi, the three-time Futures winner, defeated compatriot Hiroki Kondo, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, to advance against Hong Kong's No. 1 player Hiu-Tung Yu, who scored a 6-2, 6-2 victory over compatriot Tse-Chun Wong.

Others who advanced were third seed Suwandi Suwandi of Indonesia, who whipped Chistian Carere of Canada, 6-3, 6-1, fourth seed Dong Hyun Kim of Korea, who beat Taiwanese Huai-En Chang, 6-4, 6-3, and sixth seed Elbert Sie of Indonesia, who rallied past countryman Ayrton Wibowo, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0.

# All Star Karting goes to Carmona Saturday



CURRENT star Michelle Bumgarner (left) and future stalwart Alessandra Madrigal

LOCAL KARTING'S best of the best gather when the All Star Karting Invitational organized by Alessandra Racing flags off on Saturday at the Carmona Circuit in Cavite.

Among those seeing action in what promises to be a classic showdown are recently crowned Rotax Invitational Challenge 2006 champion Ivan Carapiet, Rotax Max World Championship veteran Marlon Stockinger, 2004 Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli, Asian Karting champion Michelle Bumgarner, European championship campaigners Stefano Marcelo and Mark Bumgarner, karting sensation Indy Villalon and 10-year-old Princess of Philippine Karting Alessandra Madrigal.

Organizers are also awaiting confirmation from Asian Formula 3 standout and former karting champion Tyson Sy, who might take a break from the series to take part in the Invitational.

Under the rules of the event, they will all be driving 100 cc Intercontinental A (ICA) machines, which are reputably the fastest karts in the world.

"With the caliber of the drivers who are racing and the sheer speed of their equipment, it's going to be an interesting race," said race director Blue Reyna.

The event is sponsored by ING Banking, Pitts, Petron, Chicago City Day School, Ford Global City, Nissan Gallery and Klassik BMW.

# 30th Nat'l Milo Marathon visits Laoag City Sunday

THE 30TH NATIONAL MILO MARATHON enters its halfway mark with the staging of a half marathon in front of the Ilocos Norte Provincial Capitol in Laoag City on Sunday.

The elimination race is the 15th leg of the 2006 season of this countrywide event that holds circuit races for 30 Sundays, including two full marathons in Metro Manila — the main event of the NCR leg held last July 16 and the national Finals set on Dec. 10. Runners compete in the 21K race in the 28 other cities where the event is held.

Reynaldo Pascua and Vilma Butac will seek to extend their winning streak to three in the footrace being held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar.

The 36-year-old Pascua, who ended Rodolfo Tacadino's reign in 2004, is expected to rule the 21K men's race while the 21-year-old Butac is favored to top the women's division.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's 21K run will advance to the national Finals.

More than 9,000 had registered for this Sunday's big event, most of them running in the 5K fun run and the 3K Kiddies age-group race.

The top 10 finishers in all three events will receive trophies, medals and cash prizes amounting to P159,600. Milo jackets, caps, basketballs and a cell phone will also be raffled off on race day.

Invited to fire the starting gun at 6 a.m. is Gov. Bong Bong Marcos, who will also help Milo Sports Events executive Pat Goc-ong in handing the trophies and medals to the winners during the awarding rites. Provincial Board Member and local organizer Michael M. Keon might participate in the 5K run.

This Sunday's activities also include an inter-school cheer-dance competition, the inter-school running competition and the biggest delegation contest, according to Milo Marathon national race director Rudy Biscocho.

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Guest Celebrities
Robert Jaworski Sr. (Ribbon Cutting & Speech)
Ronnie Rickets
Justine Gabionza (Mr. Tourism International 2006)
Charmaine Plamonte
Victoria Agbayani
Allan Caidic
Mark Caguioa
Jay-jay Helterbrand
Gary David
Mark Pingris
Willie Arboleda
Ric Pinnisi
Anton de Loria
Abstract Dancers
EB Babes
Michelle Bumgarner (Asian Cart Queen)
Glydel Mercado
Ysabel Granada
Emilio Garcia
Nelson Asuncion
Kennie Asuncion
Vic Asuncion
Alma Ledesma
Toby Gadi
Jobette Co
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MUAY Association of the Philippines
Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines
Philippine Amateur Baseball Association
Philippine Badminton Association
Philippine Karatedo Federation
[illegible] Association of the Philippines
Philippine Canoe-Kayak Federation
Philippine Sports Association of the Differently Abled
PASA Philippine Amateur Swimming Association Inc.
Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur
Philippine Volleyball Federation
Sport Climbing Association of the Philippines, Inc.
Philippine Association of [illegible]

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FREE SEMINARS

| Time Slot | August 24, 2006 | August 25, 2006 | August 26, 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|
| [illegible] - 11:45 |  | Squalene Business Opportunity by Kodama Int'l | Wall Climbing Introduction by Apextreme |
| 1:00 - 1:45 | Sports Nutrition by Herbalife | Triathlon Introduction By Ramon Marchan of Triathlon Association of the Phils |  |
| 2:00 - 2:45<br>3:00 - 3:45 | First Aid & Basic Life Support by Red Cross of the Phils | First Aid & Basic Life Support by Red Cross of the Phils | First Aid & Basic Life Support by Red Cross of the Phils |
| 4:00 - 4:45 | XP 180 Blastolyn for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Cure Program by AIGS Marketing Corp | IP Star Satellite Solution on Time, on Site Sports News Gathering by AIGS Marketing Corp | XP 180 Blastolyn for Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Cure Program by AIGS Marketing Corp |

EXHIBIT HOURS
Aug. 24 - 9am to 11 am (Opening Ceremony) 11 am to 8 pm
Aug. 25 - 10 am to 8 pm
Aug. 26 - 10 am to 8 pm

CATEGORIES: SPORTS: Footwear, Headgears, Apparels, Uniforms, Bags, Health Food, Food Supplements, Protective Gears, Watches, Gloves, Eyewear Games & Gadgets: Toys, Game Consoles, Softwares, Mobile Phones, Electronic Organizers, Digital Cameras, Watches, MP3/WMA Players, Knife, Laser Lights, Video Hobbies: Arts, Crafts, Bead and Jewelry Materials, Craft Novelties, Collectibles, Doll Making, Models, Tools, Books, Candle Crafts, Quilting, Ceramic Kits, Needlecraft, Internet Surfing, Animal Breeding, Fishing, Flower Arranging, Gardening, Film Making, Singing, Dancing, Shopping Leisures: Amusement Parks, Hotels, Restaurants, Resorts, Bars, Health Clubs, Spas, Insurance, Airlines, Luggage, Travel Agencies Others: Franchising, Telecommunication, Publication and Services...

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Event partner: Chase Technologies Corporation
Media partners: UNTV 37, Solar Sports, WM, Action Fitness, SPEED, HERO

## INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Thursday, August 17, 2006

Ang kwento ng panget mas pinaganda!
Letty la más fea
iDoL ABC
mon-sun 6pm
Premieres Aug. 14
ABC
ClickTheCity.com

| Channel | 2:30PM | 3:00PM | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | 5:30PM | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABC 5 |  |  |  | Dream Music Videos | V League |  |  |  | Sentro | Worst Case Scenario | S.O.S |  | Wala Yan Sa Lolo Ko |  | Big News | Dokyu |  |  |  |
| ABS-CBN 2 |  | Kapamilya Cinema |  |  | Pasion de Amor | Zenki | Yakitate! Japan | Calla Lily | TV Patrol World |  | Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal | Bituing Walang Ningning |  | Sa Piling Mo | My Girl | A Love To Kill | Bandila | SOCO | Mirada De Mujer |
| AXN |  | CSI: Miami (Season 4) |  | CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5) |  | 30 Seconds To Fame | Samsung Sports World | Pensacola (Season II) |  | The Amazing Race 7 |  | Fear Factor (Season VI) |  | The Contender (Season I) |  | Supernatural (Season I) |  | Hex (Season 2) |  |
| Cartoon Network | Pixie & Dixie/ My Little Pony | All New Popeye Show | I am Weasel | Tom & Jerry Show | Baby Looney Tunes | Winx Club | Xiaolin Showdown | Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends | The Simpsons | Samurai Jack/ Sayonara Samurai Jack | PokeMon | Dice | Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King | The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog | Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons | The Batman/ Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021 | X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed | Static Shock/ Shaman King |
| Cinema One |  | Joey Boy Munti |  |  |  | Ang Tanging Ina |  |  |  | Ikaw Pa Eh Love Kita |  |  |  | Puso Ng Pasko |  |  |  | Vampira |  |
| Cinemax |  | The Appaloosa (2:55 PM) |  |  | A Twist Of The Knife (4:40 PM) |  |  |  | Beyond Betrayal (6:25 PM) |  |  | Friday The 13th Part III |  |  | Jawbreaker |  |  | The Ticket (10:55PM) |  |
| CNN |  | Business International |  | World News | World Sport | Larry King Live |  | Business International | World Sport | World News Asia |  | World News | World Sport | World News Asia | Global Challenges | Your World Today |  |  |  |
| Crime/Suspense |  | Law & Order: Criminal Intent |  | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit |  | Profiler |  | Forensic Files | Psychic Detectives | Law & Order |  | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit |  | Cold Case |  | Cold Case |  | E-Ring |  |
| Discovery Channel |  | Psychic Witness |  | Building The Biggest |  | Raw Nature |  | Deadliest Catch |  | The Greatest Ever |  | Mean Machines | Connect | Mythbusters |  | Building The Biggest |  | Power Zone |  |
| Disney Channel | Mr. Bean, The Animated Series | Totally Spies | Art Attack/Un-[illegible] Bunny | Suite Life Of Zack And Cody | Lilo & Stitch | Martin Mystery | Totally Spies | Kim Possible | Mr. Bean, The Animated Series | That's So Raven | Wonderful World Of Disney |  |  | Monster Allergy | Lizzie McGuire | Buzz on Maggie | Totally Spies | Wonderful World Of Disney |  |
| ESPN |  |  |  | Kiana's Flex Appeal | Winter X-Games X - Day 2 Part 2 |  |  | Motorsport Asia | Evan Masters Day 4 |  |  |  |  | Sportscenter Asia |  | Asian 9-Ball Tour San Miguel |  |  | Sportscenter Asia |
| ETC |  | American Dreams |  | Change of Heart | Elimidate | Blind Date | Fifth Wheel | Seinfeld | Ambush Makeover | The Tyra Banks Show |  | Will & Grace 4 | Friends 10 | Queer Eye For The Straight Guy |  | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno |  |
| ETC 2nd Avenue |  | Starting Over |  | The Maury Povich Show |  | The Jerry Springer Show |  | Dr Phil |  | NBC Nightly News | The Inside Edition | The Ellen (De-generes) Show |  | Wheel Of Fortune | Jeopardy | Nanny 911 |  | NBC Nightly News | The Inside Edition |
| EWTN | Cenacle Of Divine Mercy | Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus | Virtue Storybook | Truth In The Heart | Rosary With Mother Angelica | EWTN Gallery | The Sacraments Through The Ages | Special Programming |  | EWTN Live (Encore) With Fr. Mitch Pacwa |  | Daily Mass |  | Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus | The Seven Sacraments | Images of Mary | Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men | The Journey Home Encore |  |
| Fox News |  | On The Record With Greta Van Susteren |  | The O'Reilly Factor |  | Your World With Neil Cavuto |  | Fox & Friends |  |  |  |  |  | Fox News Live |  |  |  |  |  |
| GMA 7 | Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat | Now and Forever (3:15 PM) | Ang Pardabago (3:45 PM) |  | Saiyuki | Dragonball Z | Jewel In The Palace | 24 Oras |  | Captain Barbell (7:10 PM) |  | Majika |  | I Luv NY (8:50 PM) | Love Of The Condor Heroes | Magpakailanman |  |  | Saksi |
| Hallmark Channel |  |  |  | Judging Amy |  | Sue Thomas F.B. Eye II |  | Mcleod's Daughters |  | Strong Medicine |  | Hustle |  | Spooks |  | Wire In The Blood |  | Regenesis |  |
| HBO |  |  | Walking Tall 3: The Final Chapter |  |  |  | Twisted Desire |  |  | The Punisher |  |  |  | Deadwood 05 The Trial Of Jack McCall |  | Deadwood 06 Plague (9:55 PM) | Major Payne (10:45PM) |  |  |
| Hero TV | Andriver | Angelic Layer | Duel Masters | Super Gals | Mirmo de Pon | Sugar The Snow Fairy | Naruto | Inuyasha | Saiyuki Reload | Full Metal Panic | Yakitate! Japan | Mr. Ajikko | Transformers Armada | Yu-Gi-Oh GX | BDaman Bakugaiden | Beyblade G-Revolution | Andriver | Angelic Layer | Naruto |
| IBC 13 |  | EZ Shop |  |  |  | Home Shopping Network | IBC Express Balita | Pangarap Kong Jackpot |  | EBC Earth Files |  | Japan Video Topics/ Arms |  | Travel Philippines | Japan Video Topics/ Arms | EBC Earth Files | IBC News Tonite | Home Shopping Network |  |
| JackTV |  | Experience |  | Hart |  | X-Men | The Batman | Experience |  | Mad TV |  | That 70s Show | Just For Laughs | Distraction | Banzai | The Daily Show With Jon Stewart | Premium Blend | The Late Show David Letterman |  |
| Lifestyle Network | Get Color | 30 Minute Meals | Wolfgang Puck | Sweet Dreams | Smart Solutions | Sensible Chic | At Home With | Barefoot Contessa | Everyday Italian | Food 911 | Who's Wedding Is It Anyway? |  | Good Finds | Martha |  | Your Private Island | Genuine Article | E! True Hollywood Story |  |
| MTV Philippines |  | Punk'D | Laguna Beach |  | MTV Hits |  |  |  |  | Get Spotted |  | TRL |  | Punk'D | Laguna Beach | Flex in the City | Sessions Kyla |  |  |
| MYX |  | Rock MYX | My MYX | Mellow MYX | Urban MYX | Take 5 | MYX News | MYX Firsts | Star MYX | OPM MYX | Pop MYX | MYX Daily Top Ten |  | MYX Presents |  | MYX Bandarito | My MYX | MYX Backtrax | MYXILOG |
| National Geographic | Wild Orphans | National Geographic Specials |  | Megastructures |  | Naked Science: Lightning Strike |  | Top 5 - Predators |  | WOW! Wild (Indonesia) Where Worlds Collide |  | About Asia |  | Mega Speed Walk |  | Megastructures: North Branch Correctional Facility |  | Naked Science: The Deep |  |
| NBN |  | Teledyaryo Alas-Tres |  | Teledyaryo Sports Atbp |  |  | Diyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Siya? | Teledyaryo W/ Ray Langit & Angelique Lazo |  | Tinig ng Bayan (Live) |  |  |  | Teledyaryo Final Edition |  |  |  | Bantay OCW With Susan K |  |
| Net 25 | INC Chronicles (Filipino) | In Focus | Euromaxx | Ang Mga Nagsi-[illegible] Sa Dating Daan |  | Ang Tamang Daan |  | News Beat (Live) |  | OpenLine Live | Gabay Sa Kalusugan | Ang Mga Nagsi-[illegible] Sa Dating Daan |  | Ang Pagbubunyag |  | World Report | In Focus | DWTV Journal News | Auto Motor Sport |
| Nickelodeon | Chalkzone | Hey Arnold! | SpongeBob SquarePants | Rocket Power | Four Eyes | SpongeBob SquarePants/ [illegible] Treasure/Wayside | My Life As A Teenage Robot | All Grown Up | The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron | The Fairly Odd Parents | Drake & Josh | Unfabulous | Romeo | Naturally Sadie | SpongeBob SquarePants | As Told By Ginger | The Fairly Odd Parents | My Dad The Rock Star |  |
| PBO |  |  | Love Concert |  |  |  | Nagmula Sa Lupa |  |  |  | Sugo |  |  |  | Wooly Booly 1 (Ang Classmate Kong Alien) |  |  |  | Lihim Ni Madonna |
| Qtv | Goodluck | Shaman King | Outlaw Star | Galaxy Angel | MMS (My Music Station) |  | Moms |  | Phoenix | Irene | Fireworks | Damo | Project 11 | Family Zoo |  | News On Q | Women's Desk |  | Irene |
| RPN 9 | TV Shopping |  |  |  | Kapatid Show | RPN Aksyon News |  | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | The 4400 |  | Medium |  | Invasion |  | Newswatch Now | Just For Laughs | Kasangga Mo Ang Langit | Police Hour |
| SBN 21 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Sony Music Video |  |  |  | Oras Ng Himala |  | Oras ng Katotohanan |  | Friends Again |  | Sony Music Video |  |
| Solar Sports |  | Billiards |  |  |  |  |  | America's Last Line of Defense: H. Rahman vs. O. Maskaev |  |  |  |  |  | World Pool 2006 Masters |  | Solar Sports Desk | NBA Access | World Table Tennis: ST Suss vs. L. Wang |  |
| Sports Plus |  |  | Golf Today | Raceworld |  | World Poker Tour Hollywood Home |  |  |  | Nopi Tunervision | Golf Today | World's Greatest Auto Show Year In Review |  | World Game |  | Auto Focus |  | Raceworld |  |
| Star Movies |  | The Next Karate Kid (2:55 PM) |  |  | Joan Of Arc (4:45 PM) |  |  |  |  |  | Rollerball (7:20 PM) | I, Robot |  |  |  | Raging Sharks (10:55PM) |  |  |  |
| Star World |  | The Bold & The Beautiful |  | General Hospital |  | Desperate Housewives |  | The Simpsons | Malcolm In The Middle | Star News Asia | Seinfeld | Rockstar: Supernova |  | The Office | Arrested Development | The Drew Carey Show | Less Than Perfect | Seinfeld | Rockstar: Supernova |
| Studio 23 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Teen Titans | Blog | Wazzup Wazzup | Two And A Half Man |  | Joey (8:20 PM) | Grey's Anatomy (9:10 PM) |  | News Central | Oprah |  | Reality World |

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

# SPORTS

## 'WE WANNA ROUT FOES'

# US aims to rule world

**SAPPORO, JAPAN—A HUMBLED US team that was once an overpowering dynasty will attempt to reclaim global supremacy here at the World Championships against rivals powered by NBA talent.**

Reigning Olympic champion Argentina, a French team filled with NBA players, German and Spanish squads led by NBA big men and gifted Brazil and Lithuania will join the Americans in quest of the title and a 2008 Beijing Olympic berth when play begins Saturday at four sites across Japan.

"We want to win every game and not just by five or six points," said US star LeBron James. "Even though a win is a win, we don't want to just win by that many points. We want to try to blow teams out."

The original 1992 Olympic gold medal "Dream Team" routed all foes and US NBA all-star lineups won the 1994 world title and 1996 Olympic gold with little threat. But the gap was closing with the rest of the world.

Lithuania nearly defeated the US squad and France pressured the Americans to the finish at the 2000 Sydney Olympics before the NBA talent escaped with gold.

### World Champions List

TOKYO—Previous winners of the World Basketball Championships since its inception in 1950:

| | |
|---|---|
| 2002: | Serbia and Montenegro |
| 1998: | Yugoslavia |
| 1994: | United States |
| 1990: | Yugoslavia |
| 1986: | United States |
| 1982: | Soviet Union |
| 1978: | Yugoslavia |
| 1974: | Soviet Union |
| 1970: | Yugoslavia |
| 1967: | Soviet Union |
| 1963: | Brazil |
| 1959: | Brazil |
| 1954: | United States |
| 1950: | Argentina |

*AFP*

But on home soil four years ago, a US team lacking top stars was humiliated, going 6-3 overall and finishing sixth. That set the stage for three losses at the Athens Olympics and a bronze-medal finish behind Argentina and Italy.

"I don't think you're ever going to see a US team that beats everyone else by a big margin. Basketball has changed. Many of us are playing with them every single day so we're getting closer," Argentina playmaker Manu Ginobili said.

"Even though they are very good, beating everyone else by 30 points, that's part of the past."

LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Carmelo Anthony were on the US Olympic team that struggled in Athens after numerous players backed out.

Now a pool of 24 US players have made a three-year commitment to play together, the worlds being the first test of their progress.

"This group is charged with restoring American basketball to its rightful place," US coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "It's my responsibility to make that happen."

That will require dethroning an Argentine squad sparked by Ginobili, a guard who has won an NBA crown with San Antonio. Forwards Andres Nocioni and Luis Scola add inside talent for a team that feels the pressure of its Olympic win.

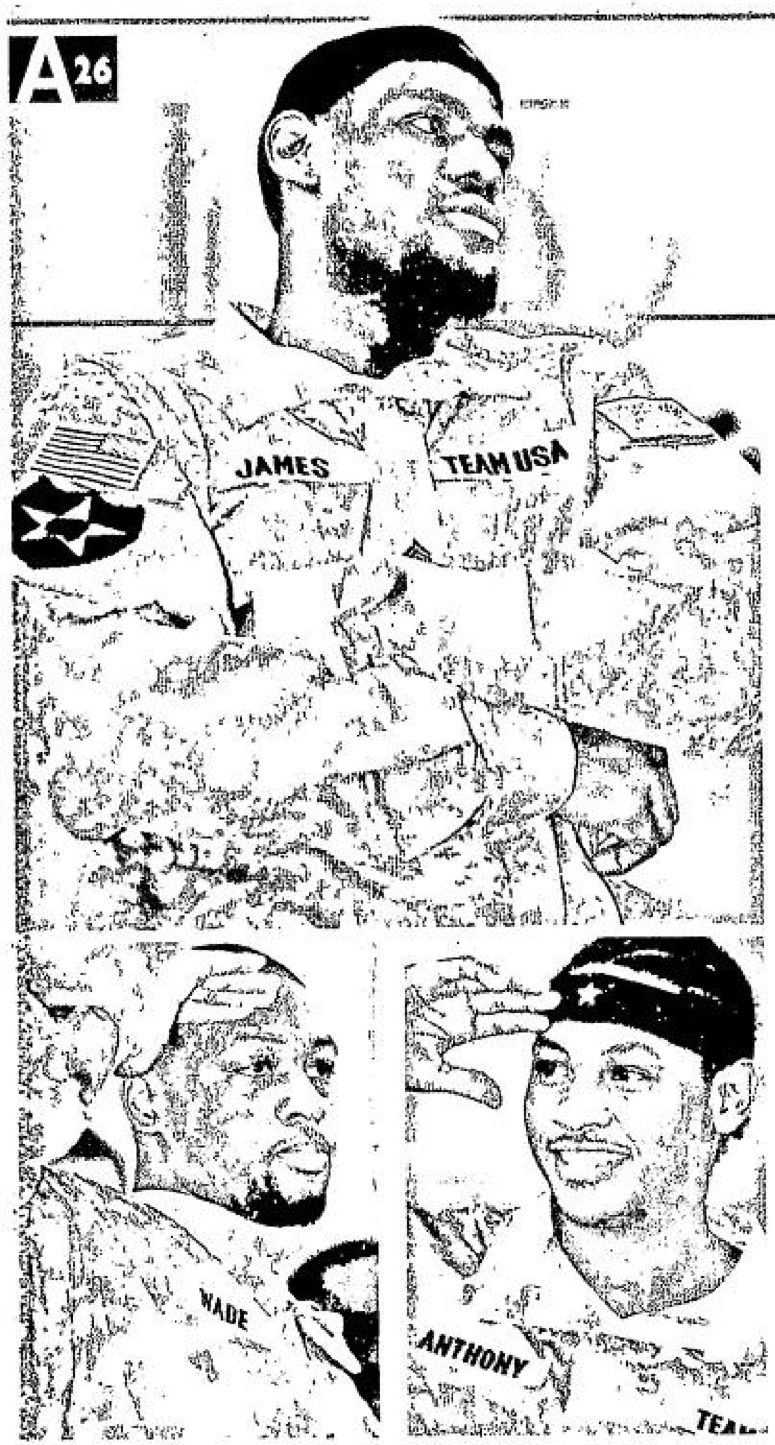
"We've already made history. But we want more," Argentina guard Pepe Sanchez said. "We will go for more glory."

"We won't be satisfied with second place," Argentina center Fabricio Oberto added.

France boasts Tony Parker, Ginobili's backcourt cohort for the NBA Spurs, plus forwards Boris Diaw, Mickael Pietrus, Ronny Turiaf and Johan Petro and veteran big man Frederic Weis.

"It's a very close squad. It's like this because we've been together for 10 years," French captain Diaw said. "We like being together and we have one common goal."

Spain seeks the same throne behind NBA center Pau Gasol and a veteran team. *AFP*



**AMONG** the young stars who hope to bring the US back to its rightful place are (clockwise from top) LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony And Dwyane Wade.

# Phil's coach thinks Tiger isn't the best

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—PHIL MICKELSON'S short-game coach Dave Pelz chipped away at the notion that Tiger Woods was invincible by saying his big, left-handed charge was unbeatable when on form.

"When Phil's at his best, I'm thinking nobody can beat him," Pelz told the Chicago Tribune in an article that stirred comment at Medinah Country Club, site of this week's PGA Championship.

"If Phil's long swing is good, his short game, I believe, is the best in the world. He doesn't have a serious weakness inside 150 yards.

"I'm not saying Tiger's short game is bad. He has a great short game. But I think Phil putts more consistently than Tiger does. He has more imagination and a few more shots around the green."

Mickelson, winner of 29 PGA Tour events, began the year on fire. He won his second successive major by claiming the Masters and led going to the final hole of the US Open before stumbling into a tie for second after a double bogey.

Woods won the British Open last month, while chief rival Mickelson finished tied for 22nd.

"My man, he's enthusiastic," Mickelson said about Pelz. He then tried to defuse the issue with a joke at his news conference, telling reporters: "I have tried to not give you too much to run with, and so I'm paying other people now to do it.

Woods, ranked number one in the world ahead of Mickelson, and the winner of 11 majors in his 10 years as a professional, shrugged it off.

"I think I'm pretty tough to beat when I'm playing well, too," Woods said, drawing laughs from reporters at his news conference. *Reuters*

# Main event comes early at final major

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—CONSIDERING how rarely Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson go head-to-head in a major, the start of the PGA Championship should be quite a stage.

Even if it is just the first round.

"Obviously, the fans that Phil has and the fans I have, it'll make for a very loud atmosphere," Woods said.

The PGA Championship traditionally puts together the three major champions of the year for the first two rounds, and this year it has a doozy Thursday.

In one corner is Woods, the British Open champion, fresh off consecutive victories that brought him his 11th major at Royal Liverpool and his 50th career PGA Tour title at the Buick Open.

In the other corner is Mickelson, the Masters champion, defending PGA champion and the greatest threat to Woods' throne.

Joining them is US Open champion Geoff Ogilvy.

"I'm sure it will be a zoo," Ogilvy said Tuesday. "I've played with them a few times, so it'll be interesting. It'll be quite funny, and the crowd will be quite vocal."

They have been rivals for the better part of the last decade—Woods the ruthless champion, Mickelson the people's choice. Strangely enough, this will be only the 14th time they have played together, and the third time in a major.

**WOODS** AFP

**MICKELSON** AP

Their last meeting at a major was a classic. It was the final round of the 2001 Masters, where Woods was going for an unprecedented fourth consecutive major and Mickelson, who had stopped two of Woods' streaks, was one shot behind. Woods pulled away with mistake-free golf on the back nine for a two-shot victory.

Woods most recently took Mickelson down at Doral last year in a sizzling duel, making a 30-foot birdie on the 71st hole and a 6-foot par to secure the one-shot victory. It was a record crowd that afternoon in Miami, some 50,000 fans gathered to watch two heavyweights trading their best shots, and they weren't disappointed.

But that was a final round. Their Medinah pairing will only get them to the weekend, which is why neither of them is putting too much stock into the matchup.

"It is different in the sense that you're not in contention to win a golf tournament yet," Woods said. "You're trying to put yourself in position to win a golf tournament. When you're playing against those guys in a major, down the stretch on Sunday, now we've got everything on the line. But on a Thursday and Friday, you're just getting started." *AP*

## Tagaytay Hold 'em kicks off

THE TAGAYTAY HOLD'EM POKER CHALLENGE PART II UNFOLDS ON SATURDAY AT THE Casino Filipino in Tagaytay City. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m., one-and-a-half hours before the tournament proper. The top four finishers will join first leg winners Gary Gabionza, Victoria Lopez, Gregory Pratt and Herbert Uy in the Grand Finals of the 2nd Million-Peso Hold'em Philippine Championship on Dec. 16-17 at Casino Filipino-Pavilion in Manila. A total of P3-Million will be broken down to the top 30 finishers in the Grand Finals of the non-wager poker event organized by Philippine Poker Tour (PPT) and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. More qualifying/satellite tournaments will be held in other Casino Filipino sites nationwide. The winners of qualifying tournaments are awarded certificates of guaranteed seat in the Grand Finals. Each guaranteed seat is worth P30,000. Seat Certificates are transferable. For details, visit www.PhilippinePokerTour.com or call 8179092 or 8120153.

## Kidz Hoops tourney set

AN ALL SUNDAY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT WILL HAVE ITS LEVELING ON AUG. 27 AT 2 p.m. right after the registration at 1pm , RFM Gym, Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City. The tournament proper will start Sept. 17. Registration fee is P1200.00 per participant. Kids are assured of 4 league games and 1 tourney game with certified referees and table officials. Playing jerseys will be provided. The tournament is open to children ages eight to 14. Pre-registration is now on-going. All kids who wish to participate should come on the leveling day in their playing gear. For more information, please log on to www.kidzhoops.com or call tel/fax 3710639.

**AF3 MEDIA PARTNERS:** Asian Formula Three Corp. chairman Eddie Peña (seated, middle) joins top honchos of several news magazines with whom he signed an agreement with to further promote the AF3 series that will visit the Sentul International Circuit in Indonesia on Sept. 20-24.

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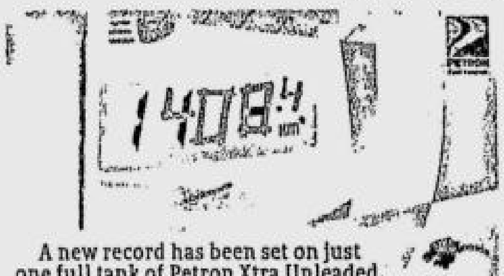


A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

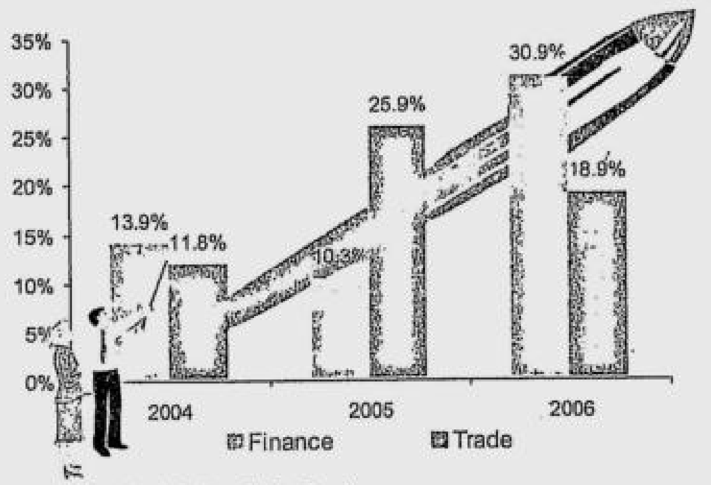
# 7-month BOP surplus rises to $2.17B

## INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

### Finance and Trade post highest growth
(Gross revenues, first quarters 2004-2006)

Finance and trade industries posted the highest growth in gross revenue for the first quarter of 2006, at 30.9 and 18.9 percent, respectively, due to the surge in interest income for finance, and higher sales from petroleum products for trade, among others.



Source: National Statistical Coordination Board

Kate V. Pedroso Inquirer Research

## Boost from strong exports, surge in OFW remittances

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE PHILIPPINES POSTED A BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS (BOP) surplus of $129 million in July, way above the $16 million a year ago but 44-percent lower than the surplus in June this year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The July figure brought the BOP surplus to $2.17 billion for the first seven months of the year, 8.7-percent higher than the $1.99 billion a year earlier.

The increase in the country's balance of payments was largely due to the double-digit growth in remittances of overseas Filipino workers, narrowing trade deficit following strong exports, and higher foreign direct investments, the BSP said.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident like importation or debt servicing is a deficit item in the BOP while any deal that gives rise to an inflow like borrowing, exporting or inward remittance is a surplus item.

The BSP expects to end 2006 with a BOP surplus of around $2 billion, above its original estimate of $1.6 billion, boosted by robust export earnings and remittances. The Philippines had a BOP surplus of $2.41 billion last year.

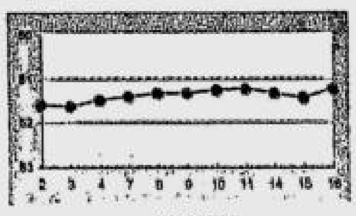
Money sent home by Filipinos working abroad climbed 15.4 percent to $5.96 billion in the first half from a year earlier and was up 18.1 percent in June alone.

Exports in January to June climbed 16.8 percent to $22.74 billion and President Macapagal-Arroyo expects annual overseas sales to

7-MONTH/ B2

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



AUGUST

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

P 51.25 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 16, 2006

¥ 116.04 = $ 1

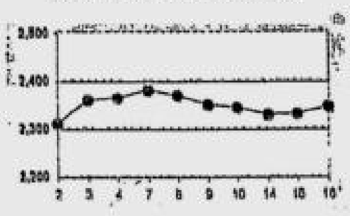
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 16, 2006

GOLD: $626.20-626.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 15, 2006

### STOCK MARKET

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**



(See stock market report on Page B4)

### Stocks rise as US rate concerns ease

STOCKS ROSE YESTERDAY, taking their cue from Wall Street's rally after fresh US economic data eased concerns over possible interest rate increases, traders said.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 14.09 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,343.51, after rising 0.1 percent Tuesday.

STOCKS/ B2

## IN THIS ISSUE

**BREAKTIME**
**What's** the Poro Point? /B2
**Bank** loans fell 0.6% in June /B4

## Travel sector reels from high fuel costs

**By Daxim L. Lucas**

*(First of two parts)*

SPECIAL REPORT

OPERATORS OF BUSES, JEEPneys and taxis are not the only sectors of the transport industry to feel the pinch from high fuel costs, even though they are the most vocal of the lot.

The high cost of crude oil products--especially petroleum--is being felt even by some of the biggest local transport and travel firms, many of whom are quietly seeing profit margins evaporate amid rising operating costs and cutthroat competition.

With the cost of petroleum expected to remain high in the foreseeable future, how the travel industry adapts to these new economic realities will determine whether it will flourish, or even survive.

Nowhere is the high cost of fuel felt more plainly than in the airline industry. According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the cost of aviation gas is racing ahead of gains in efficiency and profitability worldwide.

This year, IATA expects airlines around the world to spend a total of $112 billion on fuel, up by $21 billion from 2005 levels.

"The cost of fuel is a very large input," Cebu Pacific marketing director Candice Iyog said in an interview. "In fact, it is our single biggest cost."

### The rising cost of travel

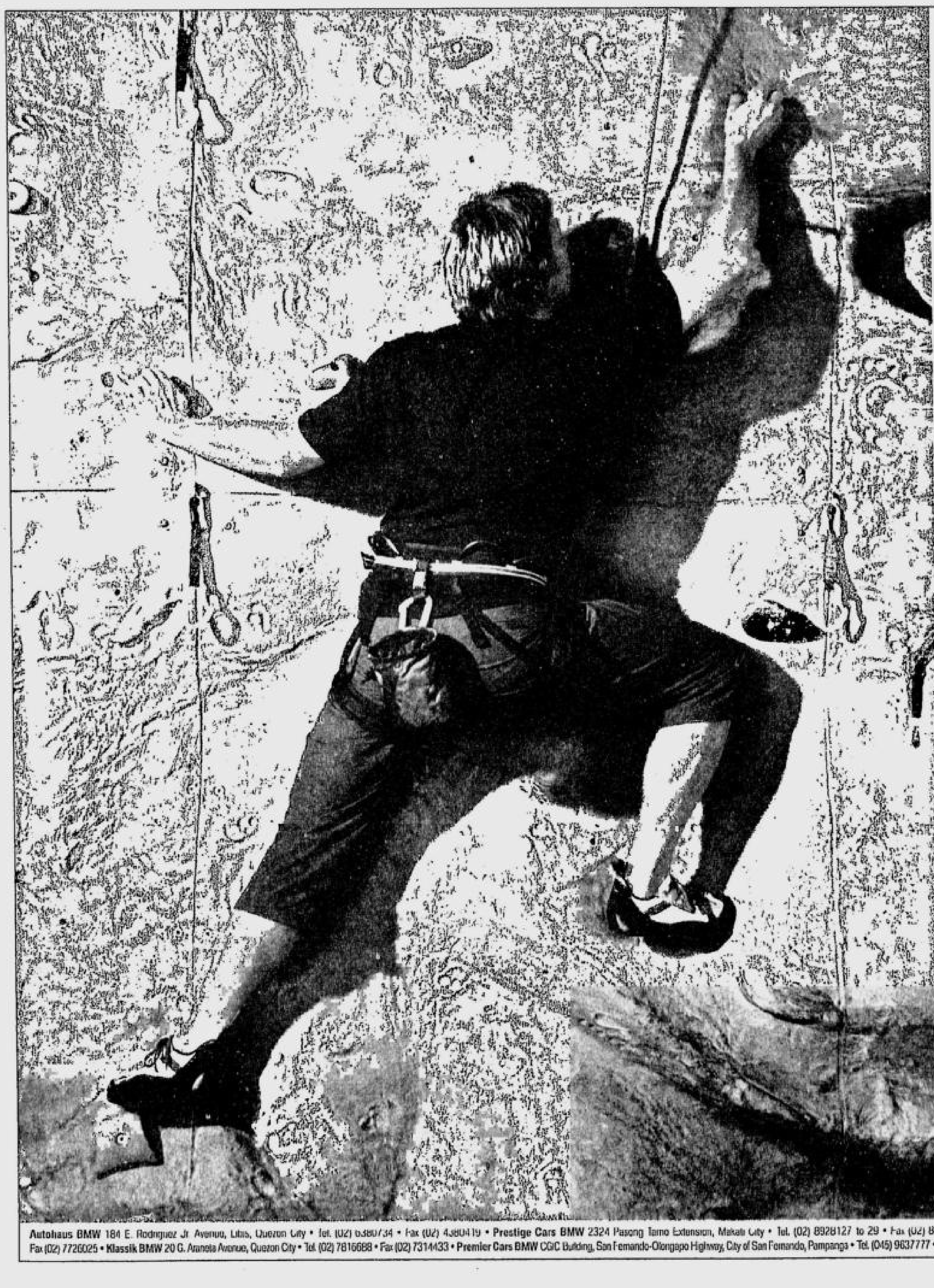
She estimated that the cost of petroleum made up slightly more than 40 percent of the operating costs of the airline owned by taipan John Gokongwei.

Because of this, airlines like

TRAVEL/ B2

BMW Philippines

Sheer Driving Pleasure



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## 7-month BOP surplus rises …

From page B1

expand at least 15 percent this year, above a government goal of 10-percent growth from 4 percent in 2005.

Foreign direct investment jumped 52.6 percent to $743 million in the first five months of the year.

The BSP also bought foreign exchange amounting to $3.38 billion from the market to boost its reserves.

"Ample foreign exchange liquidity from the market enabled the BSP to purchase (dollars) to boost reserves and avoid the need for the BSP to sell dollars to (National Power Corp.) to finance half of its foreign exchange requirements for January-July 2006," said BSP director for research Iluminada Sicat.

The actual seven-month BOP position reflected a gross international reserves level of $21.27 billion built up as of end-July. The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is an indicator of a country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy for importation and debt servicing. *With a report from Reuters*

## Stocks rise as US rate concerns ease

From page B1

"Wall Street's rally and the latest US data provided the market with direction. The past few days, the market was just moving sideways," said Westlink Global Equities chair Rommel Macapagal.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.2 percent Tuesday after US economic data showed the July Producers Price Index rising at a slower pace compared to the previous month. That eased concerns that the Federal Reserve might revive its interest rate hike campaign as early as next month. *AP*

## What's the Poro Point?

### BREAKTIME

*Conrado R. Banal III*

WHAT DOES THIS CUTE ADMINISTRATION of Gloriaetta do if it wants to wiggle its way out of a business contract because it fails to deliver on its promise in the same contract?

Why, simple, just send the troops!

And so "just send the troops" BCDA president Narciso Abaya did last week.

For whatever reason, such as to please some political allies of Gloriaetta, the BCDA reportedly wanted to remove physically—and dramatically so—the private firm called Bulk Handlers from the northern seaport Poro Point.

In 1999, during the time of the man named Band … Wrist Band, the government entered into a joint venture with Bulk Handlers to operate Poro Point for 25 years.

Only about seven years later, this cute administration suddenly gets a message from above that it has the heavenly duty to terminate the contract just like that.

And so BCDA came up with an excuse, which was, err, this dim-witted Bulk Handlers did not have "environmental clearance."

Clearly, because of such a life-threatening world-ending mistake by the company, this cute administration must send the troops.

We have heard of all sorts of reasons for sending the troops—you know, things like eliminating terrorism, preserving world peace, and instituting freedom and democracy.

This is the first case of sending-the-troops that I know in which the government is determined to defend the environment at all cost. What's next—defending the virginity of homosexuals?

* * *

IF ENVIRONMENT was indeed the issue, the DENR should have initiated the case against Bulk Handlers.

As a matter of fact, in other joint ventures between the government and private firms, the government side arranges with the DENR some leeway.

Not in the Poro Point case. The BCDA itself asked DENR to bury the private investor.

Moreover, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) joined the cooked-up scenario upon the request of the BCDA—or upon orders from above or whatever.

The BCDA board and management earlier got a memo from BCDA legal counsel Arnel Paciano Casanova, saying that the government contract with Bulk Handlers was legal and binding.

In effect, the BCDA could not kick out the company. Not legally at least.

Casanova then revealed in the memo that, personally, he received what he called "political pressure" to change his opinion. He said the pressure came from Juanito Antonio, who heads Poro Point Industral Corp. (PPIC), a subsidiary of BCDA.

According to Casanova, Antonio told him that the instruction came from an "influential person." Who can it be now?

Now PPIC earlier reported to BCDA that, actually, the government could not deliver on its promise in the joint venture to allot 30 hectares of the seaport to Bulk Handlers.

There, the government could not fulfill its end of the deal. Apparently thinking out of the box, BCDA decided that the solution was to oust the investor. You know—pin the blame on the helpless company. What a way to do business.

* * *

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice recommended the filing of criminal charges against former Ambassador Roberto Romulo, who is designated by this cute administration as "presidential adviser" for, well, something.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia, who fought the Go family at that time, filed the complaint against Romulo despite word going around then that Romulo had the backing of the Palace.

And so the DOJ said that Romulo violated the law during his term as board member of Equitable-PCI Bank, when the bank was still controlled by the Go family, because he occupied several positions in the bank and its subsidiaries.

That, according to the DOJ, was "conflict of interest."

It is still happening in the bank, I tell you.

* * *

HERE'S A bit of good news to government employees. The GSIS policyholders under the OLI, or the "optional life insurance," are going to get dividends.

The GSIS approved P90 million in dividends for the OLI, which the policyholders can get using their "eCard" at the thousands of bank ATMs accredited by GSIS, instead of through mail.

Qualified for the dividend payments are policyholders who got their OLI before 2003 and who remained active as of end 2005.

The GSIS said, on average, an OLI policyholders stands to receive P468.

The OLI dividend is on top of the "regular" life insurance dividends that the GSIS pays out yearly to GSIS members.

The "regular" one is a compulsory insurance for all government employees, while OLI is up to the member.

Still, the GSIS chose to computerize the OLI policies, thus allowing the pension fund to identify (and fast) the members qualified for the dividends.

With computerization, the GSIS found out that some 30,000 OLI policies already lapsed mostly due to unpaid premiums. Good job!

What about us, the members of SSS—we just eat our hearts out, is that it?

## French bank bullish on RP; sees GDP growing 5.5% this year

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY WOULD LIKELY grow by 5.5 percent this year and 6 percent next year, but fresh investments must pick up to transcend a "flat" growth trajectory over the long haul, French banking giant BNP Paribas said.

In a recent economic presentation in Manila, BNP Paribas chief economist and head of credit research Andrew Freris said the Philippines, along with India and Indonesia, had the potential to grow much faster than its current performance.

"The economy will experience relatively flat growth but inflation has now peaked. The fiscal performance is strong and external balances supportive," Freris said.

"The performance of exports is quite encouraging but the persistence of low investment growth reflects poor confidence as well as structural issues," the economist said.

Freris said the Philippines' diversification of the exports base, one of the most concentrated in Asia, would depend on domestic and foreign direct investments. He added that the country must seek out its "comparative advantages" sectors through the market mechanism.

The Philippines, whose gross domestic product grew by 5 percent last year, generates about 25 percent of its export earnings from the US market, much higher than China's 22 percent, and Malaysia's and Hong Kong's 20 percent.

"The expected slowdown in the US economy in 2007 could affect Asia's exports. However, the degree of export dependency on the US varies widely among Asian economies and therefore the impact will also vary widely," Freris said.

He noted that intraregional trade was now, in term of exports, the most important trade flow in Asia, thus making the continent's exports less dependent on the so-called G3 (the United States, Europe and Japan).

"Exportation of human capital is crucial to the external balances of the Philippines and also reflects the developmental needs of the economy in terms of investment and jobs creation," Freris said.

Meanwhile, Freris noted that Philippine inflation was now on a downtrend. He also noted that the country had recovered quickly from domestic political upheavals.

"The central bank, quite rightly, resisted calls to raise rates—(the) last increase (was) in October 2005. Prices of oil will decline in 2007, helping to stabilize inflation further," he said.

Freris projected that Philippine inflation would average lower at 6.5 percent this year from 7.7 percent in 2005. The slowdown is seen to continue next year when inflation was forecast to average at 4.5 percent.

He also projected the peso to hit 50:$1 this year and further appreciate to 48:$1 next year alongside the expected weakening of the dollar.

## Travel sector reels from high fuel costs

From page B1

Cebu Pacific and flag carrier Philippine Airlines have had to pass on the cost of expensive fuel to their clients through co-called "fuel surcharges."

Competition among various airlines means, however, that they will have to shield clients from the entire cost of more expensive fuel or risk losing them to other carriers.

"The surcharge doesn't completely capture the cost of fuel," Iyog admitted. "Only a portion is passed onto the client, while the airline absorbs the rest."

For Cebu Pacific, the situation called for a more innovative approach.

According to Iyog, the answer was to "revenue manage" the airline's fare levels--making it flexible and allowing it to charge more during periods of high demand, and charge less during lean times.

The groundbreaking program, dubbed "Go Fares," changed the landscape of the local travel industry and stirred the low-cost carrier's rivals into action.

"Our business model meant that there are no more peaks and valleys [in demand for travel]," the Cebu Pacific official said.

Launched with a high-profile marketing gimmick last summer, the program offered clients tickets to any Cebu Pacific destination in the country at fares of only P10 or even P1 during the traditionally weak July to October months, exclusive of surcharges, fees and taxes.

The public's response was enthusiastic.

It allowed Cebu Pacific to maintain an average load factor--the number of passengers who actually fly versus the number of seats available--at 80 percent, beating the 70-percent average of its larger rival, PAL.

The Gokongwei-owned airline, which has yet to record an annual net income, is betting on this business model to bring it to profitability.

"Volume is the key to this business model," Iyog said. "We believe this is sustainable." *(To be continued)*

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Marketing Institute of the Philippines
The education and training arm of the
PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION
presents : A seminar on
CUTTING-EDGE SERVICES MARKETING:
OPTIMIZING YOUR ADVANTAGE IN THESERVICE INDUSTRY
September 01, 2006; 8:00AM – 6:00 PM
Ipil-Ipil Room, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati

Seminar Description

The SERVICES MARKETING seminar is a "must attend" specially designed workshop for marketing executives of firms engaged in the fast growing service industries. It aims to give better understanding and deeper insights in the success areas. The five-session carefully selected topics will provide the participants with the essential knowledge in the marketing services. Guided the principles of the marketing mix but applied in the service industries the speakers will lead the participants through the marketing maze that may appear simple in theory but become complicated in practice. However, the problem resolution techniques at the end of the seminar will provide valuable tools to prepare participants for the demanding jobs in creating cutting-edge service marketing.

Who Should Attend

This seminar is highly recommended to senior/middle management executives, as well as frontline service and operations service/outlet personnel especially those who find themselves now thrust into service marketing. Participants from a variety of service industries from A to Z – airlines, ad agencies, banking, business process outsourcing centers, call centers, entertainment, restaurants, fast foods, hospitals, health spas, IT solutions providers, insurance, leisure, media, medical centers, public relations, research firms, sales promotions, service stations, telecommunications, travel agencies and zoos – will find this seminar a very profitable learning experience.

SEMINAR PROGRAM
*September 01, 2006 (Friday)*
Registration – 8:00AM – 8:30AM

Introductory Session – 8:30AM - 9:00AM

*Session 1 – 9:00AM – 10:00AM*
INTRODUCTION OF THE CHANGING DYNAMICS OF SERVICES MARKETING IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE REGION
- *The Evolution of Service Marketing*
- *The great divide between products and services*
- *Innovations in Service Marketing Through the Year*
- *Learning from the Region – What Are the Trends*

Speaker: MR. RICARDO DE VERA
Business/Service Training Consultant
Dept. of Trade and Industry
Certified International Trainor
Singapore Training Institute

*Session 2 – 10:00AM – 11:00AM*
CREATING A RESPONSIVE CUSTOMER RESEARCH PROCESS: THE LIFEBLOOD ON CUTTING-EDGE SERVICES MARKETING
- *Research as key to segmentation, targeting and positioning*
- *Research as a mechanism for uncovering dimensions of customer expectation*
- *Research as feedback for customers expectations, monitoring and tracking customer satisfaction*
- *Research as basis for service marketing innovations*

Speaker: DR. MA. VICTORIA M. AC-AC
Research and Marketing Consultant
Associate Professor, San Beda College

*Session 3 – 11:00AM – 12:00NN*
THE CHANGING MARKETING MIX ELEMENTS OF SERVICE INDUSTRIES – (WE DON'T DO IT LIKE PRODUCTS!)
- *From 4-7 elements of the Service Industry Marketing Mix*
- *The new definitions of the Marketing Mix in Service Industries*

Speaker: MR. ENRIQUE SORIANO
President/CEO
ERA REAL ESTATE, INC.

*12:00Noon – 1:00PM - LUNCH*

*Session 4 – 1:00PM –2:00PM*
CUSTOMER INTIMACY AND RELATIONSHIP EXPERIENCE: WHAT IS IT – WHAT IT IS NOT
- *Managing your customer expectations*
- *Building relationships that transcend time and generation*
- *The meaning of relationship experience*

Speaker: MS. IVY ROSE VILLANUEVA
Senior Consultant

*Session 5 – 2:00PM – 3:00PM*
BUILDING YOUR SERVICE BRAND TO SUCCEED
- *The service offer creating a strong images*
- *Managing your people toward a service images*
- *Sustaining effort on service marketing*

Speaker: MR. RICARDO DE VERA

*3:00PM – 4:00PM - WORKSHOP*
*4:00PM – 6:00PM - Presentation of Cases/Summation*

*Registration Fees:*
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# DOF backs proposal to lift VAT exemption of indirect exporters

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE has backed the proposal to take away the value-added tax exemption of suppliers of export-oriented firms.

The DOF said it shared the view of the Senate committee on ways and means that the VAT exemption of indirect exporters, or suppliers of export-oriented firms, was not supported by any law.

Suppliers are currently exempted from VAT if they supply to exporters in economic zones or registered with the Board of Investments.

Aside from the exemption, suppliers are also allowed to refund the VAT on raw materials that already include the 12-percent VAT.

But a ranking finance official said there was actually no law stating that suppliers of exporters should be granted incentives.

Under the VAT law, the official noted, only exporters should be exempted from the VAT.

Amid moves to rationalize fiscal incentives given away by the deficit-beleaguered government, the Senate ways and means committee, headed by Sen. Recto, has drafted a bill lifting several tax- and duty-free perks granted to businesses, including the VAT exemption of indirect exporters.

# 8 property firms keen on bidding for lot in Bonifacio Global City

## Ayala, Megaworld among companies eyeing 1.2-ha parcel

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

THE BASES Conversion and Development Authority has offered a prime lot for bidding and big real estate firms have taken notice. REGIE FERNANDO / CONTRIBUTOR

EIGHT REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS HAVE EXpressed interest in entering into a lease or joint venture agreement covering 1.2 hectares of prime land in Bonifacio Global City.

The state-run Bases Conversion and Development Authority said the firms that showed up for the pre-qualification meeting yesterday included Ayala Land Inc.; Cancio Architects and Blue Gate Development Corp.; Megaworld; Philippine Townships International Corp.; Robinsons Land; Rockwell Land Corp.; Roxas, delos Reyes, Laurel and Rosario Law Office and Sta. Clara International Corp.

BCDA vice president Aileen Zosa, who is in charge of corporate planning and business development, said the property was considered the gate to the City Center along 5th Avenue.

Zosa said the property, which is part of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP) Phase III, was the Expanded Big Delta Lots formerly known as the Government Center for Investment.

"Any project that will rise there shall enjoy being in an accessible area," she said.

Zosa added that the developers would have flexibility in their development activities considering that the property was for mixed-use and was of considerable size.

"It is ideal for five-star hotels, offices and other land uses," she said.

In an earlier announcement, BCDA president and chief executive Narciso Abaya said the property was expected to generate at least P1.8 billion in revenues over a 25-year term.

Abaya explained that the projected amount was based on a floor price of P150,000 a square meter.

The Bonifacio Global City highlights as a come-on for businesses a central location "that is a few minutes away" from the Makati and Ortigas central business districts, the Naia Terminal 3, and C-5 Road.

# Aegis buys 30-percent stake in Mediaforce

LONDON-BASED AEGIS GROUP plc has bought a 30-percent stake in Mediaforce, one of the country's largest media and advertising companies, as part of its strategy to expand to the Philippines.

Mediaforce chair Luis J. Morales said the group expected total media billings to double to about P2 billion in the next two years following the alliance.

Formed in 2005, Mediaforce groups five Filipino-owned advertising agencies such as AB Communications, ASPAC Advertising, Avellana & Associates, Avia Communications and Image Dimensions.

Morales said Mediaforce decided to take in a foreign partner because the advertising industry was becoming more global in nature.

"Not being a multinational has actually been a handicap for us," he said. "But we remain a 'local' group, it's just that we have a foreign partner."

Kym Pfitzner, Aegis' chief financial officer for the Asia Pacific, said the firm had long been looking for opportunities to expand its presence to the Philippines.

"We have always been doing so although we are not forced to," Pfitzner said. "It depends on who the potential partner is."

In a prepared statement, Aegis chief executive Robert Lerwill said the Philippines was an increasingly important market for local and multinational advertisers.

"Mediaforce has gained a strong reputation as a leading independent media planning and buying group in a relatively short time," Lerwill said. "We are pleased to be adding to our network in this region."

Aegis, which is listed on the London Stock Exchange and operates in at least 60 markets, will share with Mediaforce learnings from other countries as well as provide access to the group's proprietary media planning tools and technology.

As a result, Mediaforce would be relaunched as Mediaforce Vizeum, partly named after Aegis' global media network Vizeum.

"We expect to be able to compete more vigorously with the multinationals and to be able to offer a better basket of services for clients because of new technology as well as an international clout," Morales said.

Morales said Mediaforce's total billings was close to P1 billion and grows 5 percent a year.

Clients include the brand owners of Splash, HBC, Pfizer, Zest-O, Philam Plans, Philippine Airlines, Comfoods (Cafe Puro), Minola cooking oil, LBC Express, Panasonic and Metrobank. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

# Petron seeks ₱150-M loan for CNG refueling stations

**By Christine A. Gaylican**

PETRON CORP. IS SEEKING A P150-million loan from Land Bank of the Philippines for the oil firm's plan to put up compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling stations.

Land Bank president Gilda E. Pico said Petron was planning to put up about 10 CNG facilities in Metro Manila, Laguna and Batangas.

If approved, Pico said the loan would fall under the portion of its portfolio that was earmarked for new and renewable energy projects particularly of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and their affiliates. Petron is an affiliate of Philippine National Oil Co., a GOCC.

Other NRE projects recently funded by Landbank included PNOC-Energy Development Corp.'s wind project in Ilocos, which was granted a bridge financing of P300 million.

In another development, industry sources said the project would put Petron in step with competitor Shell Philippines, which also has CNG refueling stations.

They said Petron's project would serve CNG-fueled buses playing the Manila-Batangas and Manila-Laguna routes.

According to the Department of Energy, the promotion of the use of alternative transport fuels such as natural gas will lessen the country's dependence on imported fuel.

The transport sector consumes about 53 percent of the country's total oil importation.

In October 2002, the government launched the Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT).

The NGVPPT lays down the policies governing the downstream natural gas market to encourage active private sector participation in this industry and create a healthy competitive environment for all players.

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| 500,000 - 999,999 | 5.250 |
| 1.0MM - 4.99MM | 5.500 |
| 5.0MM - 9.99MM | 5.750 |
| 10.0MM and up | 6.000 |

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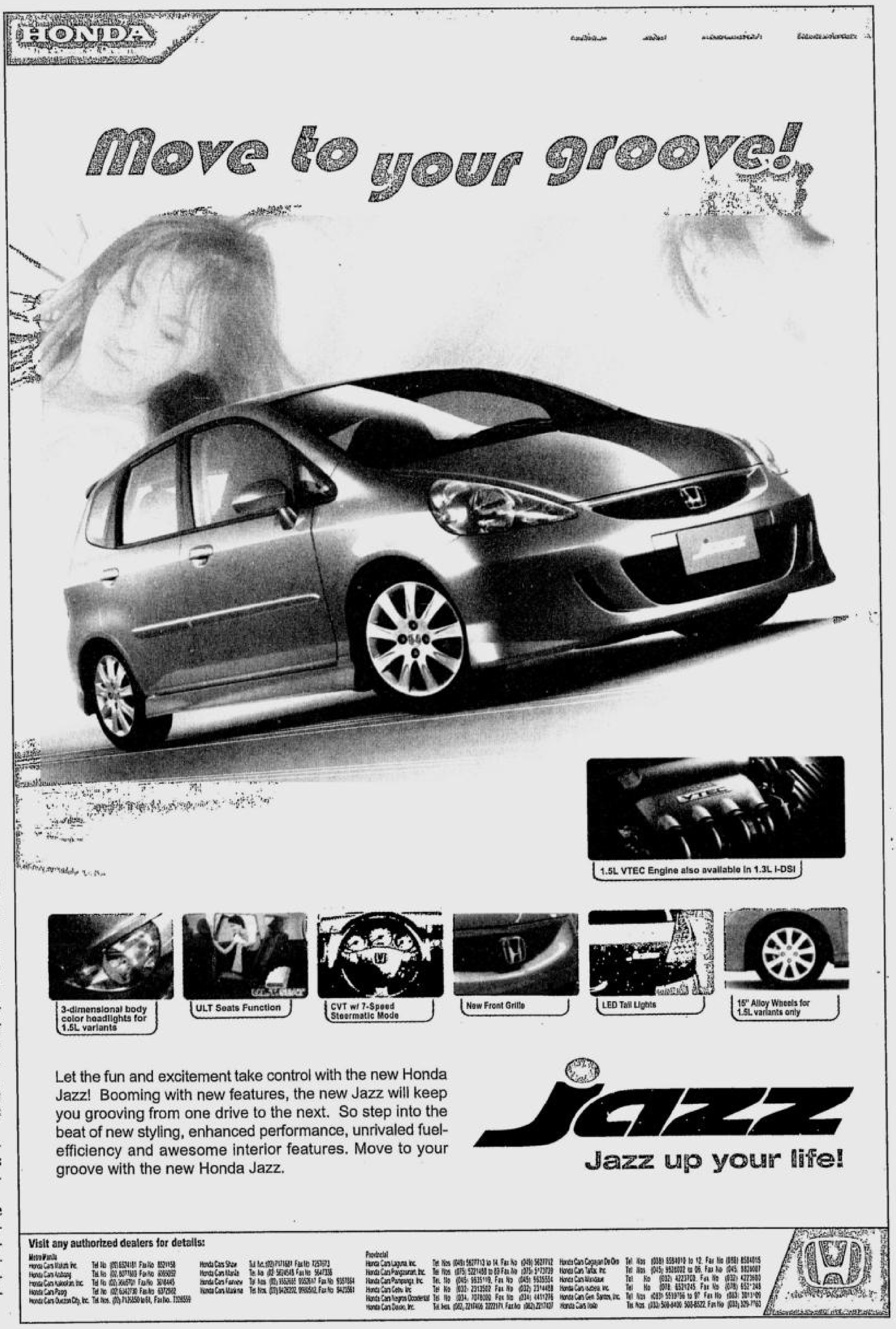

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# Bank loans fell 0.6% in June

## Lenders remain cautious given their huge stock of bad assets

By Doris C. Dumlao

COMMERCIAL BANK LOANS CONTRACTED by 0.6 percent to P1.58 trillion in June from a year earlier, the biggest slide in more than two years, due to weak demand and lender caution.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the banking system remained constrained by their soured assets that had piled up since the 1997 Asian currency turmoil.

Bank lending in June was also 1.5 percent lower than the previous month's level. Loans extended by commercial banks in May grew by 3.3 percent from month-ago level, the BSP said in a statement.

"Lending activity continues to be weak as banks remain cautious, given the present level of their nonperforming assets (NPAs)," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in the statement.

The bad loans-to-total loans ratio of Philippine commercial banks has dropped to a post-Asian financial crisis low of 7.22 percent in June from 7.36 percent as of end-May. In peso terms, however, the banking system's NPAs were still high at P319.27 billion. Of the amount, foreclosed property accounted for P192.4 billion.

"The lack of credit information has also been cited as a reason for weak bank lending. The BSP's support for the credit information bill in Congress is expected to address this aspect of credit weakness," Tetangco said.

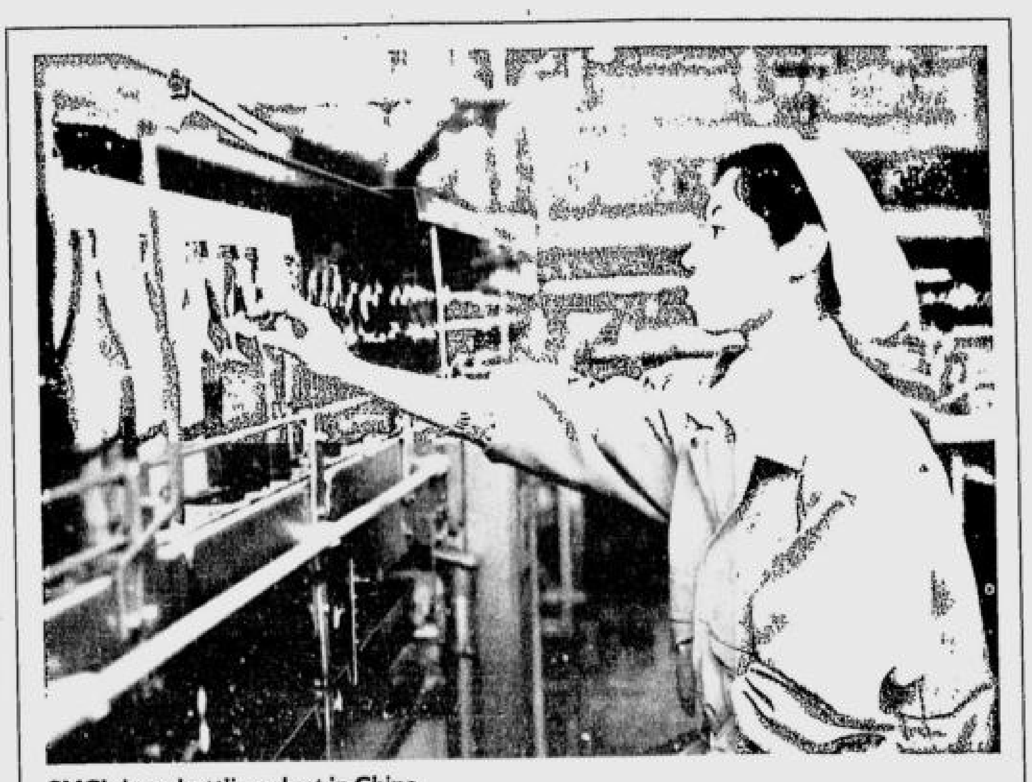
Outstanding loans to most sectors declined in June, particularly for construction (-12.7 percent), agriculture (-8 percent), manufacturing (-7.1 percent), electricity, gas and water (-5.8 percent) and transport, storage and communication (-4.9 percent).

The BSP noted increases in the loans extended to the services sector—financial institutions, real estate and business services (7.4 percent) and community, social and personal services (6 percent).

Arthur Ty, president of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., said in an earlier interview that the sluggish bank lending was not all due to lack of interest to lend among banks but also because of the higher standards adopted in screening borrowers.

He added that loan growth was also constrained by the generally weak appetite for loans. He said there was still lackluster loan demand from the corporate and middle market segments.

However, shrinking interest rate margins are seen forcing banks to jack up their loan portfolios. *With a report from Reuters*



SMC's beer bottling plant in China

## *SMC international beer sales up 5% in first half*

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

INTERNATIONAL BEER SALES OF SAN Miguel Corp. grew 5 percent in the first six months of the year to $138.5 million from year-ago level, on strong volumes from northern China, Hong Kong and higher exports, the company said in a report to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

Local beer sales, however, went down in the same period to P20 billion from last year's P20.4 billion, as consumers spent less on beer and more on other things such as gaming and short messaging or "texting," industry analysts observed. Also, some beer drinkers are now shifting to health drinks, they added.

In terms of volume, international beer sales rose 9 percent at 26.1 million cases, the company said in a statement.

Sales volume in northern China was up 19 percent year-on-year, the company said. This was attributed to the strong performance in the market of the "Blue Star" brand.

The company said its Hong Kong unit reported an 18-percent rise in sales volume due to robust export sales.

Price discounting tactics by rival companies, meanwhile, affected sales in Australia and Indonesia.

J. Boag & Sons, SMC's beer subsidiary in Australia, reported lower volume because of a discount war and an import policy that allowed the direct sale to the Australian market of imported premium liquor brands at huge discounts.

"New pricing structures and strategies are being worked out, but lead times required by most of our wholesalers prevent us from implementing these changes until September this year," SMC said.

Higher inventory levels and bigger discounts offered by a main competitor, Bintang beer, have cut sales volume in Indonesia.

SMC officials earlier said an adverse pricing environment in most of its regional markets had required brand building and other marketing measures. This jacked up operating expenses, consequently dragging SMC's international beer operations to a consolidated operating loss as of June. No figures were disclosed.

The slightly lower six-month revenue of its local beer operations was blamed on the implementation of the expanded value added tax law and the continued rise in oil prices which limited the consumers' purchasing power.

Also, industry analysts said people were now spending more on "texting" and shifting to health drinks, adversely affecting local beer sales.

Price adjustments, lower input costs and cost-containment measures cushioned the impact of lower volumes on the Philippine operations' first semester operating income, which grew by 8 percent to P4.7 billion year-on-year.

In the meantime, SMC's hard liquor business, Ginebra San Miguel Inc., said its net income fell 40 percent to P331.9 million in the first half, from P552.8 million in the same semester last year.

## Tighter 'free float' disclosure eyed

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) has proposed tighter disclosure rules on the public ownership of listed firms to enhance its regular monitoring operations and to measure more accurately the weight of the companies in the various sector indices.

PSE president Francis Lim said the proposed amendment would require listed companies to disclose public ownership reports (PORs) every quarter.

The proposed amendment has been sent to the Securities and Exchange Commission for approval, Lim said in a statement.

"We need the POR so we can identify more accurately the amount of free float or shares that are deemed publicly traded," Lim stressed.

Right now, listed companies submit the POR to the PSE only upon request.

The amendment was proposed three months after it adopted the free float method, along with two other criteria, as additional yardsticks in selecting the composition of the PSEi.

Under the old method of computing the PSE Composite Index, the PSE used only three criteria—full market capitalization, liquidity, and tradability.

In the PSE's new formula, a listed company must satisfy five criteria—free float level, free float market capitalization, tradability, liquidity and volume turnover ratio—to qualify for inclusion or retention in the list of PSEi companies.

As approved by the PSE board, the free float portion should represent at least 10 percent of the outstanding shares of a listed stock before it qualifies for inclusion in the PSEi. The proposed amendment will help the PSE determine more accurately the free float portion of the listed companies. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

## New production line seen boosting Asahi exports

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ASAHI GLASS PHILIPPINES EXPECTS EXports to grow by about three times to $20 million by the end of this year following the start of the commercial operations of its new solar glass cover production line.

In yesterday's inauguration of the new facility, AGP chair Renato R. Ermita said the company had started to fulfill its role as Asahi Glass Co.'s export hub for solar glass cover in Asia.

Ermita, who has just completed his term as company president, said AGP's export earnings were expected to more than double to $43 million in 2007.

Solar glass cover is a high value-added input used in making flat plate solar collectors that convert solar energy into electricity.

Ermita said the parent company, AGC of Japan, had invested in the new production line because of the bright market prospects for solar glass. He added that the project got a big boost from the declaration of the company's 28.13-hectare manufacturing complex in Pasig City as an export processing zone.

The new production line is expected to add $15 million to AGP's earnings this year even as the plant is expected to run at only two-thirds of its rated capacity until the end of this year.

AGP is finalizing plans to register the new plant as a locator enterprise in the Asahi Special Economic Zone.

Emmanuel Y. Go, the new AGP president, said the firm invested $5 million in the solar glass line and another $5 million in a solar glass furnace.

Go said these were on top of the $20 million spend by AGP in rebuilding its float glass manufacturing plant, which was launched also last Wednesday.

The upgrade resulted in the expansion of the float glass production capacity to 520 tons a day from 400 tons.

AGP holds about 78 percent of the local glass market.

Also, Go said AGP's solar glass plant would be its flagship project for environmental protection as it was equipped with a Department of Environment and Natural Resources-licensed exhaust gas treatment plant (EGTP).

He said AGP was considering to recoup its investments by trading its carbon credits, which is based on the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, to industries in developed countries where it is difficult to implement GHG reduction.

## Pancake House H1 net up 212%

PANCAKE HOUSE INC. SAID ITS NET INCOME expanded 212 percent to P20 million in the first half from P6.4 million in the same period last year.

Pancake House restaurants were the main driver of growth and the huge decline in Dencio's losses, to P1.6 million from last year's P10.8 million, also helped improve the group's bottomline, according to the company.

Japanese fast food chain Teriyaki Boy contributed P4.8 million to the net income

Consolidated revenue grew 81 percent to P637.5 million in the first half from P351.4 million last year. Restaurant sales grew to P449 million from P193.4 million, commissary sales rose to P147 million from P124.4 million, and franchise revenues (continuing royalty and franchise fees) increased to P41.5 million from P33.6 million. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

## GEI price up on sale of stake

THE SHARE PRICE OF HOLDING FIRM Global Equities Inc. yesterday rose sharply after an undisclosed investor bought 7.6 percent or 150 million shares of the company.

The share price increase was also fueled by market rumors about the backdoor listing by an Australian company through GEI, which is currently cleaning up its liabilities.

The rumor was, however, denied by the company's corporate secretary Arsenio Cabrera Jr.

Sources said the deal involved 150 million shares bought at 51 centavos per share or a total of P76.5 million. It was brokered by BDO Securities.

GEI was yesterday's fifth biggest gainer at the stock market with P192 million worth of shares traded. It closed 10.6 percent higher at 52 centavos.

Sources also said that outgoing chair Nora Bitong signed an agreement with GEI yesterday for the company's proposed cleaning up of shareholder deficits.

GEI's board recently agreed to assign assets worth roughly P864 million (in book value) in favor of Bitong as payment for advances she extended to GEI. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 16, 2006)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FINANCIAL** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 2,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 32.5 | 33 | 32.5 | 32.5 | 147,200 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 52.5 | 54 | 52.5 | 54 | 1,954,100 |
| China Banking Corp. | 705 | 705 | 700 | 700 | 910 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 20.5 | 20.5 | 20.5 | 20.5 | 300 |
| Export and Ind. Bank A | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 80,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 79 | 81 | 79 | 81 | 23,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 38 | 38.5 | 38 | 38.5 | 553,200 |
| Philippine National Bank | 34.5 | 34.5 | 34.5 | 34.5 | 7,100 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 5,000 |
| Rizal Comm Banking Corp. | 16.75 | 17 | 16.75 | 17 | 82,200 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 48.5 | 49 | 48.5 | 49 | 36,300 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 45 | 45.5 | 45 | 45.5 | 28,300 |
| **OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.62 | 0.62 | 250,000 |
| Citiseconline.Com Inc. | 1.82 | 1.82 | 1.82 | 1.82 | 160,000 |
| Filipino Fund Inc. | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 2,000 |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30.5 | 5,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1620 | 1630 | 1620 | 1630 | 2,940 |
| Phil. Stock Exchange Inc. | 219 | 219 | 219 | 219 | 50,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1920 | 2005 | 1920 | 2005 | 2,450 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 1.3 | 1.32 | 1.3 | 1.32 | 2,371,000 |
| **INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER** | | | | | |
| First Gen Corp. | 42 | 42.5 | 42 | 42.5 | 28,100 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 41.5 | 42 | 41.5 | 41.5 | 787,200 |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 16.25 | 16.5 | 16.25 | 16.25 | 255,100 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 25 | 25 | 24.75 | 24.75 | 1,691,900 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 10,355,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 2,699,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.94 | 0.95 | 0.94 | 0.95 | 210,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 5,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 23.5 | 23.5 | 23.5 | 23.5 | 21,100 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 32.5 | 33 | 32 | 33 | 1,388,300 |
| Pancake House Inc. | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 139,000 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.81 | 0.81 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 410,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 3.75 | 3.75 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 782,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 64 | 64.5 | 64 | 64.5 | 41,300 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 74 | 74 | 73 | 73.5 | 59,000 |
| Universal Robina Corp | 18.75 | 18.75 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 950,600 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 300,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 200,000 |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 1.62 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 480,000 |
| Holcim Philippines Inc. | 5 | 5 | 4.75 | 4.8 | 350,000 |
| Republic Cement Corp. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 30,000 |
| **DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS** | | | | | |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.51 | 0.54 | 0.5 | 0.52 | 376,990,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.0775 | 0.0775 | 0.0775 | 0.0775 | 400,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 34,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 422.5 | 425 | 417.5 | 420 | 65,530 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 377,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.033 | 0.033 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 27,900,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 379,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 500,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 78,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 20,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 1.52 | 1.52 | 1.52 | 1.52 | 20,000 |
| Baguio Gold Holdings Corp. | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.75 | 2.75 | 72,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 3,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1,670,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 844,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 2.6 | 2.75 | 2.6 | 2.75 | 101,000 |
| House of Investments Inc. | 1.18 | 1.22 | 1.18 | 1.22 | 120,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6 | 6 | 1,195,000 |
| Jolliville Holdings Corp. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.195 | 0.195 | 800,000 |
| Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 170,000 |
| Magnum Holdings Inc. | 0.88 | 0.88 | 0.88 | 0.88 | 10,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 900,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.011 | 0.013 | 0.011 | 0.012 | 44,600,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.195 | 0.195 | 5,810,000 |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 50,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 21,430,000 |
| SM Investments Corp. | 216 | 219 | 216 | 217 | 15,370 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.88 | 0.88 | 0.87 | 0.87 | 420,000 |
| Seafront Resources Corp. | 0.71 | 0.8 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 30,000 |
| Uniol Res. & Holdings Co | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.14 | 0.145 | 49,100,000 |
| Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 1,200,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 13.25 | 13.5 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 1,164,900 |
| Belle Corp. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1,970,000 |
| Cityland Development Corp. | 1.44 | 1.44 | 1.44 | 1.44 | 10,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.33 | 0.34 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 2,780,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 2.14 | 2.14 | 2.14 | 2.14 | 7,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 2,490,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.48 | 0.5 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 22,890,000 |
| Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 540,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.049 | 0.0525 | 0.048 | 0.048 | 15,300,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.36 | 1.38 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 12,243,000 |
| Gotesco Land Inc. | 0.105 | 0.105 | 0.105 | 0.105 | 30,000 |
| Gotesco Land Inc. B | 0.0975 | 0.0975 | 0.0975 | 0.0975 | 100,000 |
| Interport Res. | 0.0065 | 0.007 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 128,000,000 |
| Interport Res. B | 0.007 | 0.0075 | 0.007 | 0.0075 | 13,000,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc. | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 190,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 1,010,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.41 | 0.43 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 930,000 |
| Marsteel Cons. Inc. A | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 1,000,000 |
| Marsteel Cons. Inc. B | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 6,000,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.6 | 1.66 | 1.6 | 1.64 | 154,613,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.23 | 0.235 | 2,970,000 |
| MRC Allied Ind. Inc. | 0.29 | 0.3 | 0.29 | 0.3 | 410,000 |
| Philippine Estates Corp. | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 100,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 12 | 12 | 11.75 | 12 | 233,500 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.43 | 0.46 | 0.43 | 0.45 | 19,020,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 631,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 5,629,000 |
| Suntrust Home Dev., Inc. | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 100,000 |
| **SERVICE** | | | | | |
| **MEDIA** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 16.75 | 17 | 16.75 | 17 | 43,100 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 89,000 |
| **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** | | | | | |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 1.3 | 1.34 | 1.3 | 1.32 | 10,351,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 1010 | 1015 | 1010 | 1010 | 28,250 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 3.65 | 3.8 | 3.65 | 3.8 | 9,256,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 2010 | 2025 | 2000 | 2005 | 137,120 |
| **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** | | | | | |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.195 | 0.195 | 9,760,000 |
| Imperial Res. | 0.013 | 0.015 | 0.013 | 0.014 | 35,000,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 2.28 | 2.28 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 871,000 |
| Ipvg Corp. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 330,000 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.0525 | 0.06 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 49,600,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 27,300,000 |
| Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 50,000 |
| Transpacific Broadband | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 200,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.031 | 0.031 | 0.03 | 0.031 | 11,000,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 185,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 14.75 | 14.75 | 14.75 | 14.75 | 55,900 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.88 | 0.88 | 0.88 | 0.88 | 240,000 |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 31,000 |
| **HOTEL & LEISURE** | | | | | |
| Acesite Phils Hotel Corp. | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 735,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.4 | 1.44 | 1.4 | 1.44 | 641,000 |
| Philippine Racing Club | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 30,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.49 | 0.49 | 2,880,000 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| Far Eastern University | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 2,530 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 18,000 |
| **DIVERSIFIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Macroasia Corp. | 2.06 | 2.08 | 2.06 | 2.06 | 157,000 |
| Paxys Inc | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 525,000 |
| **MINING & OIL** | | | | | |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 4.65 | 4.7 | 4.55 | 4.7 | 3,339,000 |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. B | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.55 | 4.65 | 976,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 72,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 7.7 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 396,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng Co. A | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 120,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng Co B | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.29 | 0.3 | 1,040,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.022 | 0.022 | 0.021 | 0.022 | 414,700,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.028 | 0.028 | 0.026 | 0.028 | 362,100,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0095 | 0.01 | 0.0095 | 0.0095 | 497,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.15 | 4.2 | 4,333,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 4.3 | 4.35 | 4.2 | 4.35 | 5,683,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 26 | 26 | 25.5 | 26 | 6,200 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.52 | 0.53 | 3,140,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 120,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 2,970,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 93,200,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 22,900,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.24 | 1.26 | 762,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 400,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 13.25 | 13.25 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 133,500 |

## CURRENCIES

| August 16, 2006<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.781922 | 1.000000 | 51.4420 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.006734 | 0.008612 | 0.4430 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.480413 | 1.893300 | 97.3951 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.100517 | 0.128551 | 6.6129 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.632316 | 0.808669 | 41.5996 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.697024 | 0.891424 | 45.8566 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.495577 | 0.633794 | 32.6036 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.597845 | 0.764584 | 39.3317 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.074174 | 2.652661 | 136.4582 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.208501 | 0.266652 | 13.7171 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.494012 | 0.631792 | 32.5006 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000086 | 0.000110 | 0.0057 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.020923 | 0.026759 | 1.3765 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.212895 | 0.272272 | 14.0062 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.278900 | 65.7892 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.254118 | 0.324992 | 16.7182 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.364091 | 0.465636 | 23.9532 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134063 | 0.171453 | 8.8199 |
| India | Rupee | 0.016826 | 0.021519 | 1.1070 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.212479 | 0.271739 | 13.9788 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.072592 | 0.092838 | 4.7758 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.495358 | 0.633513 | 32.5892 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.124762 | 0.159558 | 8.2080 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.012974 | 0.016592 | 0.8535 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.114196 | 0.146045 | 7.5128 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000810 | 0.001036 | 0.0533 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.108555 | 0.138831 | 7.1417 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.015063 | 0.019264 | 0.9910 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.023883 | 0.030544 | 1.5712 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000364 | 0.000466 | 0.0240 |

# Mango industry an integral part of Mindanao economy

**MINDANAWORLD**

*Joji Ilagan-Bian*

MANGO IS A MAJOR PHILIPPINE fruit crop that comes third to banana and pineapple in export volume and value.

The Philippines is the sixth biggest mango-producing country producing about one million metric tons a year. It accounts for 3.5 percent of the world's production.

In 2003, Mindanao produced about 176,669 MT of mangoes, which is about 18 percent of the total national production. In 2004, it increased to 188,820 MT.

The major producers are Region 12 (51,623 MT), Region 9 (45,642 MT), Region 11 (32,382 MT) and Region 10 (31,845 MT). In terms of area, Mindanao has 53,495 hectares planted to mango in 2003, increasing to 54,635 ha in 2004. The biggest areas are in ARMM (12,239 ha), Region 9 (11,131 ha) and Region 12 (10,966 ha) (BAS).

Philippine mango is exported to 48 countries. The major destinations for Philippine mangoes are Hong Kong and Japan that absorb almost 90 percent of our mango exports.

The mango-processing sector produces various product forms of mango such as mango puree, mango juice, dried mangoes, mango concentrates, frozen mangoes, mango glaze, edible parts, mango in brine, and mango preserves.

Over the years, Mindanao's share of the national volume of mango exports has increased. In 2002, Mindanao only accounted for 4.8 percent of the country's total fresh mango exports.

But in 2005, the production doubled to 10 percent. The share of dried mangoes from Mindanao to total exports was only 3.2 percent in 2004, but increased to 23 percent in 2005.

One reason behind the increase is the climate.

Unlike Luzon and Visayas, Mindanao is ideal for year-round mango production because the island is hardly visited by typhoons.

Normally, mango harvests in Luzon and the Visayas peak during summer and weaken from July to December due to the onset of the typhoon season.

In Mindanao, mango growers can program their harvests throughout the year.

So in 2003, the Mindanao Fruit Industry (Minfruit) Council, a business support organization assisted by the United States Agency for International Development, through its Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, started a Mindanao-wide campaign to encourage off-season mango production to take advantage of Mindanao's strength.

This campaign introduced appropriate farming practices and technologies to farmers to promote full-year mango production. This way, Mindanao growers would be able to supply the mangoes in those months when other regions are unable to produce.

With the new techniques and processes, at least 2,000 metric tons of off-season mangoes were harvested in the second half of 2004.

The Minfruit Council reported that fresh mangoes airlifted to Manila from Davao City increased during that time by more than 65 percent compared to the first six months of the year.

Industry sources reveal that most of the mangoes sent from Davao to Manila ended up on the dining tables of homes and restaurants in Japan, Hong Kong, and China.

It was also estimated that its off-season mango campaign has tapped at least 800 new growers, covering an estimated production area of at least 1,000 hectares.

The support of local government units has also been instrumental in the dramatic expansion of the Mindanao mango industry. Several proactive and development-oriented local government units helped to accelerate the growth of the mango industry in Mindanao by providing seedlings to farmers under a scheme called "Plant Now, Pay Later."

Under this arrangement, many growers were able to develop their small mango farms, since the cost of planting materials was advanced by local governments. Hundreds of farmers benefited from this program in Davao, Caraga, and Northern and Central Mindanao.

The presence of processors who have established operations in key areas in Mindanao also increased mango production.

To date, there are four dominant mango processors in the region.

All major Manila-based fresh-mango exporters have also augmented their sourcing and consolidation operations in Mindanao. There are buying stations in major cities, including Davao, General Santos and Cagayan de Oro.

In terms of mango production, the multinational firm Dole remains the dominant player in Mindanao, as it controls hundreds of hectares in production areas through direct lease or contract-spray agreements with local mango farmers.

Dole also operates a vapor heat treatment facility in Davao del Norte, the only such facility outside Metro Manila, where fresh mangoes are treated prior to shipment to Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.

Three more vapor heat treatment facilities are reportedly being constructed in Mindanao.

VHT is required by mango exporters to prevent pests from entering their country.

Having such facilities on the island helps position Mindanao as a major mango supplier, particularly to more lucrative export markets.

One of the major challenges that the mango growers face is maintaining volume of production while complying with more stringent international food safety standards.

The imposition of stricter standards by such major importing countries as Japan, lowering pesticide residue limits of certain agrochemicals used in mango production, pose a serious threat to growers in Mindanao, where the use of agrochemicals in mango farming is widespread due to the high incidence of pests and diseases.

To help overcome this threat, the Minfruit will undertake a series of training courses and information dissemination campaign for local growers on the judicious application of pesticides in mango production.

The council is also calling for the creation of an accreditation system for mango growers, along with the adoption of good agricultural practices (GAP) for mango production.

There will be a Mindanao Mango Marketing Conference this week in Davao City and this year's conference will focus on the "Mango GAP."

With moves to improve the quality of mango, there is no doubt that Mindanao can be a major mango producer and exporter offering safe and good quality fruits to both local and international consumers.

*(Joji Ilagan Bian is a strong advocate for Mindanao; chair, Mindanaworld Foundation Inc; Con-Com and Charter change advocacy commission member ; chair of the Mindanao TVET ; Mindanao Rep, Export Development Council; chair, Joji Ilagan Foundation; former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)*

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## P114 MILLION AS OF JUNE

# Cebu Holdings income up 106%

**By Irene R. Sino Cruz**
*Inquirer Visayas*

CEBU CITY—DRIVEN BY INcreased consumer spending and sales of its real estate products, Ayala Land-affiliate Cebu Holdings Inc. registered a 106-percent growth in net income for the first half of the year.

Francis Monera, CHI executive vice president and chief operating officer, said the company's net income reached P114 million during the period, up from P55.3 million last year.

According to Monera, the company's profit margin rose due to a combination of growth in revenues as well as efficiency improvements.

He said Cebu Holding posted a consolidated gross income of P480 million during the first half of the year, the bulk of which came from its commercial center operations.

Ayala Center Cebu contributed P206 million in revenues, Monera said. Other revenue sources include commercial lots sales from the Cebu Business Park, Asiatown I.T. Park, City Sport Club shares, Park Tower 2 penthouse units and Amara lots, he said.

"We did well in all product lines," Monera said.

He noted that there were only 12 lots left in Cebu Business Park (CBP). The flagship project of Cebu Holdings has over 100 lots spread over a 50-hectare integrated development.

There are six ongoing constructions by locators at the CBP, including the twin-structure of Lexmark Research and Development Corp., a 20-story residential condominium, a 14-story IT building, one building for an insurance company and another for a bank.

Cebu Holdings has also started the expansion of Ayala Center Cebu, which will provide an additional 6,000 sq.m. of space up for lease.

"We even expect more growth in the future especially on retail as Ayala Center Cebu is set to expand and is foreseen to derive more revenues as a result of the continuing priming up of Cebu Business Park," Monera said.

He also cited the increase in consumer spending in the region, which has resulted in the expansion of malls and the mushrooming of small retail developments in Cebu.

On the other hand, he said the projected increase in remittances would help boost sales of their residential products while the continued growth in the IT sector would result in higher demand for office spaces.

Because of this, Monera said the company planned to construct another condominium, to serve either the office or residential market.

# Baguio may lose part of John Hay rent, taxes

BAGUIO CITY—THE BASES CONversion Development Authority has said it might be forced to reduce Baguio's share of the rent proceeds and gross income generated by the Camp John Hay Special Economic Zone.

Testifying before the city council, Liza Pagano-Calde, vice president of BCDA estate manager John Hay Management Corp., said Baguio's share might be smaller than anticipated because the original sharing agreement might have no legal basis.

The city contends that it is entitled to a 3-percent share of Camp John Hay's gross income as prescribed in Resolution 362 of 1994, which gave the government 19 conditions before it could endorse Camp John Hay's development.

The automatic 3-percent share was one of the conditions.

Councilor Leandro Yangot provided Calde and a BCDA finance officer with a treasury report that computed Baguio's outstanding share at P530.5 million based on its 3-percent cut.

Calde, on the other hand, said the government has been computing based on the provisions of Republic Act No. 7227, or the BCDA law, which grants the host of the BCDA-administered economic zone a share of only one percent.

She declined to state how much Camp John Hay Development Corp., owned by Fil-Estate Corp., now owes the government. But JHMMC said earlier that it owed the government P2 billion in rent.

Calde added that the impasse over the nullified tax benefits of the Camp John Hay developer might cause Baguio government to lose its right over the Baguio Convention Center.

The convention center was built by former First Lady Imelda Marcos in 1978 to host the chess match between world grandmasters Anatoly Karpov and Viktor Korchnoi.

Calde said the local government bought the convention center from the Government Service Insurance System by obligating seven years of proceeds representing its share from the lease rentals of CJHDevco. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Republic of the Philippines

CITY OF BAIS

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bais invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the hereunder requirements for use/various INFRA PROJECT of Bais City:

| | | | ITEM | APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1) | 1 | unit | BULLDOZER, Crawler type; Model D85; Blade Type-Angle dozer; Operating Weight-21,000 Kg; Drive Type-Power shift; Rear Attachment-Multi-shank ripper; Engine-6 cylinder Diesel feed; Rated Output-180 HP; Japan Surplus, reconditioned with warranty; new paint and batteries. | P 2,800,000.00 |
| 2) | 1 | unit | WHEEL LOADER. Bucket Capacity-2.3 cu.m.; Operating weight-12,000 Kg.; Transmission System-Full Power shift; Engine-6 cylinder Diesel feed; Rated Output-150 HP; Tire Size-20.5 x 25; Japan Surplus, reconditioned with warranty; Brand new Tires (preferably Philippine made); New paint and batteries. | 2,000,000.00 |
| 3) | 2 | units | HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR, Crawler-Backhoe Type with Offsetting boom; Operating Weight-5000 Kg.; Bucket Capacity Range – 0.055 to 0.22 cu.m.; Engine-3 cylinder Diesel feed; Rated Output-38.0 Hp; Japan surplus, reconditioned with warranty. New paint and batteries. | 1,800,000.00 |
| 4) | 1 | unit | 10-WHEELER CARGO DUMPTRUCK, left-handed drive, double differential, 6 cylinder diesel engine driven, brand new tires including spare (preferably Philippine made), new paint and batteries; with hydraulic jack, tire wrench and early warning device; Japan surplus, reconditioned with warranty and 1-year FREE insurance and registration in the name of the City of Bais. | 1,000,000.00 |
| 5) | 1 | unit | 10-WHEELER CARGO TRUCK – with Hydraulic Boom; Lifting capacity – 2,900 Kg., Left-hand drive, diesel engine Driven, double differential w/front drive, brand new Tires including spare (pref. Phil. Made), new paint and Batteries; w/ hydraulic jack, tire wrench and early warning Device; Japan surplus, reconditioned with warranty and 1-Year FREE insurance and registration in the name of the City of Bais. | 800,000.00 |
| 6) | 1 | unit | 6-WHEELER MANLIFTER TRUCK, Boom Extension-60 ft., Bucket capacity-200 Kg., 6-cylinder diesel engine driven, left hand drive, single differential, brand new tires including spare (preferably Philippine made), new paint and batteries; with hydraulic jack, tire wrench and early warning device; Japan surplus, reconditioned with warranty and 1-year FREE insurance and registration in the name of the City of Bais. | 700,000.00 |
| 7) | 1 | unit | ROCK BREAKER, Adaptable to Komatsu PC200 Backhoe, good surplus, A-1 condition, complete with acessories | 400,000.00 |
| | | | TOTAL | P 9,500,000.00 |

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

In order to qualify, bidders should conform to the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Sec. 23.11 of the IRR-A of R.A. 9184.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. As such non-submission of the required documents will result in the disqualification of the bidder.

All other particulars relative to the procurement process shall be govern by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Pre-bid conference will be conducted at the Office of the City Mayor, this city, on **August 25, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.**

Bid documents can be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee equivalent to the total amount of the ABC of the items in which interested bidders intend to bid, in accordance with the following rates:

| | |
|---|---|
| Below P50,000.00 | - 0.5% but not less than P100.00 |
| P50,000.00 but not more than P100,000.00 | - 0.45% but not less than P250.00 |
| P100,001.00 but not more than P200,000.00 | - 0.4% but not less than P450.00 |
| P200,001.00 – P350,000.00 | - 0.35% but not less than P800.00 |
| P350,001.00 – P500,000.00 | - 0.3% but not less than P1,225.00 |
| P500,001.00 – P1,000,000.00 | - 0.2% but not less than P1,500.00 |
| P1,000,001.00 and above | - 0.1% but not less than P2,000.00 and not more than P10,000.00 |

Bid documents can be obtained starting **August 18, 2006** at the BAC Secretariat c/o Office of the City Mayor or Office of the City General Services, this city, Tel. Nos. (035) 402-3182, or 402-8115, anytime during office hours; and can also be inquired for further information or particulars.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility, technical, and financial documents each in separate sealed envelopes duly marked as such in the bid box at the Conference Room at the Office of the City Mayor on **September 6, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.** at which place, date and time said envelopes shall be opened in the presence of the members of the BAC, the attending bidders, the observers, or their duly authorized representative. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The City Government of Bais reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **CARMELINO L. MORALES**
(City General Services Officer)
BAC Chairman

(PDI–August 17 & 22, 2006)

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**APPLICATION DEVELOPER** – Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or any computer related course with 6 months experience in different application development tools like Oracle form6i, Report6i and PL/SQL, PHP, ASP. Knowledge of Oracle 9i DBMS and networking is an advantage. With 8 hrs. of relevant training and with CS Professional / 2nd level eligibility.

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### BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Contract | Materials use for the concreting of Panay-Pawa Road Phase-II Panay, Capiz |
| Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) | P2,285,450.00 |
| Source of Fund | Trust Fund |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Portland Cement | 8,250 | bags |
| 2. | Washed Gravel | 777 | M3 |
| 3. | Washed Sand | 417 | M3 |
| 4. | 12mm x 6.0m RSB STD | 170 | pcs. |
| 5. | #18 G.I. Tie Wires | 40 | Kgs. |
| 6. | Spade | 6 | pcs. |
| 7. | Maso 6lbs | 4 | pcs. |

| BAC Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application of Eligibility | August 21-25, 2006 |
| 2. Issuance of Bid documents | August 29, 2006 |
| 3. Pre-Bid Confrence | September 6, 2006 |
| 4. Opening of Bids | September 8, 2006 |

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184.
2. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms at Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of prescribed non-refundable fee of PESOS: Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00).
3. Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address.
4. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished technical and financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes before the deadline of submission of bids, if they have not earlier pre-qualified.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash and must be delivered to PGSO on or before the bid closing date.
6. BAC Committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
7. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not to award the contract; and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) DANTE B. BERMEJO
Chairman
BAC Committee

(PDI--Aug. 10 & 17, 2006)

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### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
GEOGEN-06-001

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-GEOGEN invites interested Private Security Agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for security services of the following:

| SCHEDULE | OFFICE/ INSTALLATION | PR NUMBER | APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT | AMOUNT OF BID DOCUMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DATE OF BIDDING : SEPTEMBER 19, 2006; 10:00 AM | | | | |
| A | Makban GPP | MAK-06-192 | 44,208,962.95 | 10,000.00 |
| B | Makban UPI Posts | MAK-06-212 | 26,606,969.79 | 5,000.00 |
| DATE OF BIDDING : SEPTEMBER 20, 2006; 10:00 AM | | | | |
| C | Tiwi GPP | TAF-06-024 | 39,245,776.68 | 10,000.00 |
| D | Tiwi UPI Posts | TAF-06-023 | 20,002,392.17 | 5,000.00 |
| DATE OF BIDDING : SEPTEMBER 21, 2006; 10:00 AM | | | | |
| E | Bacman GPP | BAC-06-705 | 25,991,189.13 | 10,000.00 |

NOTE: **A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the Makban Science Centrum SEPTEMBER 7, 2006, 10:00 AM**

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee per schedule starting **AUGUST 17, 2006** from the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| Schedule A & B | Makban -Administration Section, Admin/Finance Division Bgy. Bitin, Bay Laguna, |
| Schedule C & D | Tiwi – Administration Section, Admin & Finance Division Tiwi Albay |
| Schedule E | Bacman – Administration Section, Admin/Finance Division Palayan Bayan, Manito, Albay |

No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Makban Science Centrum, Bgy. Bitin, Bay Laguna on the dates and time specified in the written schedule above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Should there be questions on the bid documents, bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the scheduled Pre-Bid Conference.

Any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statements, or any changes in the situation of the bidder to materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the BAC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with *"IRR of Republic Act. 9184"*.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of the following

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash/Manager's Check/Cashier's Check/Irrevocable Letter of Credit/Bank Draft | 1% |
| Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS | 2.5% |
| Bank Guarantee | 1.5% |

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

M. A. BALLESTERO
Chairman – BAC, MBGPP

D. C. BUENCONSEJO
Chairman, BAC – TGPP

N. B. BALANE
Chairman, BAC -BMGPP

(PDI--Aug. 17 & 24, 2006)

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JUANITA BARIN CARRILLO and ELVIRA CARILLO CATLEDGE has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. No. 225, Page No. 46, Book No. 65, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Lope M. Velasco of Makati City.

(PDI – August 3, 10 & 17, 2006)

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*UCPB, Psalm* .......... A18
*Transco* .......... A19

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# OBITUARIES

> *"I am the Resurrection and the Life.*
> *He who believes in Me will live*
> *even though he dies, and whoever*
> *believes in Me will never die."*
> *-John 11:25-26*

## RUPERTO BOLEA ADAPON

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 15, 2006 at the age of 84.*

His bereaved family: wife **Angeles**; children **Erlinda, Amelita & Manuel Abella, Tony & Nenita, Amelia & Mario Ramos, Atty. Sulpicio & Liw, Engr. Chito & Decy, Dra. Filipina & Cesar Jusayan, Salvador & Fe, Magdalena & Luis Gascon**; grandchildren **Lina, Tonton, Juan Carlos, Victor Miguel, Niña Gracia, Ace, Karen, John, Cecilia, Anthony, Macoy, Tyron, Catherine, Arnold, Kevin, Eric, Patrick, Brian, Mariel** and great- grandchild **Sean Iñigo**, other relatives and friends.

His remains lie in state at their residence in Palabanan, 2nd San Juan, Batangas.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 20, 2006 at Liwasan Memorial Park, San Juan, Batangas at 1:00 p.m.

> *"And... I will dwell in the*
> *House of the Lord... Forever."*
> *- Psalm 23*

---

*Dearly Missed and Lovingly Remembered*

1st Death Anniversary

## CAPT. JOSE RENE NESSIA JARQUE

- Graduate, U.S. Military Academy Class '86
- Member, PMA Class '86

October 14, 1964 – August 19, 2005

Classmates, Relatives and Friends in Metro Manila are invited at the Mass to be held at:

| | |
|---|---|
| Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati | 3:00 PM |

Other Masses will be offered at:

| | |
|---|---|
| St. Anne Parish Church – Dallas, Texas | 8:00 AM |
| St. Mark's Catholic Church – Calgery, Canada | 8:00 AM |
| St. Thomas Moore – Henderson, Nevada | 8:00 AM |
| Our Lady of Fatima Parish – Bacolod | 6:30 AM |
| St. Sebastian Cathedral – Bacolod | 7:00 AM |
| Queen of Peach Church – Bacolod | 5:30 PM |
| Sacred Heart Seminary – Bacolod | 5:30 PM |
| Don Bosco Church – Makati City | 8:30 AM |

*Please remember him in your prayers...*

---

## ARNOLD "NOLI" ARAMBULO AGONCILLO

January 3, 1961 - August 14, 2006

His loving wife **Helen**; children **Alexis & Ashley**; loving parents **Guia & Tony** (†); sister **Arlene**; brothers **Jojo, Allan, Dindo & Gelo** and other loved ones, request you to join us in celebrating **Noli's** coming home to the Lord.

His remains lie in state at Lumbang Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, August 20, 2006 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City at 11:00 a.m.

---

## Death Notice

### Gonzalo S. Gacho, Sr.

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 14, 2006 at the age of 64.*

His body lies in state at Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapel, Camus Ext., cor. Jose Abad Santos St., Davao City.
Interment will be in the morning of August 21, 2006, Monday at Forest Lake San Pedro Memorial Park, Davao City.

### Jaime M. Mamuyac

July 3, 1953 - Aug. 12, 2006

His remains lie in state at St. Claire, Holy Trinity Chapel, Sucat, Paranaque.
Interment will be on Sat. Aug. 19, 2006, 10am at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Paranaque.

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# Ninoy Aquino Day no longer new

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) clarified that the observance of the annual Ninoy Aquino Day for the third time on Aug. 21, 2006 is mandated by law by virtue of Republic Act (R.A.) 9256.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion issued the clarification following the reported opposition by some sectors to the non-working holiday on August 21 in commemoration of the martyrdom of the late Senator Benigno "Ninoy" S. Aquino, Jr.

Brion recalled that the Congress of the Philippines had earlier initiated the historic legislations for the observance of the Ninoy Aquino Day by way of the earlier House Bill No. 6240 passed in 2003, and Senate Bill No. 2636 passed the following year.

Senate President Franklin M. Drilon approved the Senate version on January 26, 2004, and House Speaker Jose C. De Venecia, Jr., the House version earlier on November 19, 2003.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo enacted the consolidated version of the Senate and House bills into law as RA 9256, otherwise known as "An Act Declaring August 21 of Every Year as Ninoy Aquino Day, A Special Non-working Holiday, and for Other Purposes," during the 18th commemoration of the EDSA People Power Revolution on February 25, 2004.

Brion said that subsequently, the first national observance of the Ninoy Aquino Day took place on Aug. 21, 2004, followed by the second annual commemoration of the event on the same day in 2005.

Meanwhile, Labor Undersecretary for Labor Standards Romeo C. Lagman has clarified the rules applying on fixed nationwide special holidays that are applicable to the observance of the Ninoy Aquino Day.

1) If the day is unworked, the no pay policy shall apply unless there is a favorable company policy, practice or collective bargaining agreement (CBA) granting payment on a special day even if the day is unworked.

2) If the day, however, is worked, the pay is the employee's daily rate plus thirty percent (30%) for the first eight hours of work, and for work in excess of eight hours, plus thirty percent (30%) of the hourly rate on said day.

3) If the day falls on the employee's rest day and is worked, the employee's daily rate plus fifty percent (50%) shall apply on the first eight hours of work, and for work in excess of eight hours, plus thirty percent (30%) of the hourly rate on said day.

# NFA rice for Mayon Volcano evacuees

THE NATIONAL Food Authority in Region V has already issued a total of 910 bags of rice to relief agencies for assistance to Mayon volcano evacuees.

NFA Region V director Rogelio Macutay said the provincial government of Albay has already withdrawn a total of 600 bags of rice for their relief operation. The cities of Legazpi and Tabaco, meanwhile, have also withdrawn 140 and 50 bags of rice each aside from the 20 bags withdrawn by the Philippine National Red Cross to help the affected residents.

Aside from the government relief agencies, non-government organizations including the ABS-CBN and the Mercury Drug Corporation have also withdrawn 50 bags each for their own relief operation effort, Macutay said.

The rice issuances, according to Macutay, are covered by a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with relief institutions and local government units.

Macutay said a total of 6,426 families or 30,645 individuals in the nine towns of Albay are presently affected by the ash fall and the continuing lava flow from Mayon volcano.

Forecasts of Mayon's eruption triggered the forced evacuation of residents in municipalities within the identified danger zone.

The evacuees are now housed in 20 evacuation centers in the towns of Daraga, Camalig, Guinobatan, Malilipot, Sto. Domingo and the cities of Legazpi, Ligao and Tabaco.

Macutay said the evacuees are set to receive 2,000 bags of rice donated by the Japanese government through its Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The rice donation was drawn from the food security stocks of the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) intended for relief and rehabilitation activities in calamity affected areas of the country.

Macutay said the NFA provincial office in Albay has organized committees on disaster preparedness and drawn up plans to speed up giving of assistance to affected communities.For more information on the NFA's rice relief assistance, the public may send their inquiries via Text NFA Program with mobile number 0917-6210927.

---

*To the man who has given us so much and whose noble ability to endure the challenges of life has provided us the motivation to seek and touch our goals --*

*We thank you for the wonderful memories and the invaluable wisdom.*
*We at Sun Life Financial Philippines will miss you.*

## HAROLD GEORGE DOUGLAS McLAREN

Branch Manager, Philippine Branch and
Regional Manager, Far East Division
(1969 - 1986)

joined our Creator on August 14, 2006 at the age of 92.
His remains now lie in state at the Capilla del Señor Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on August 19, 2006 at the Heritage Memorial Park in Fort Bonifacio after the 9:00 AM Mass.

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*Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.*
Psalm 116:7

## Vicenta Clemente Bonoan

*Joined our Lord and her husband Antonio Sr. on 14 August 2006 at the age 97.*

Her children Ric (†) and Tita, Tony and Baby, Gerry and Carmen: grandchildren Reret, Mikie and Jane, Sugar, and Joy. Alan and Nonon. Carlo, Norman and Arvee, Gary and Sandy, and Ann, Ray and BingBing and Rowena and Bill; and great-grandchildren Christian, Patrick, Julia, Jason, Audrey. Marcus. Nico. Miranda, Javi, Lucia, and Gabriel, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine. New Manila.

Requiem mass is on Friday. August 18, 2006, at 10:00 A.M. at Mt. Carmel, with cremation to follow at 1 P.M. at Loyola Memorial Park. Marikina.

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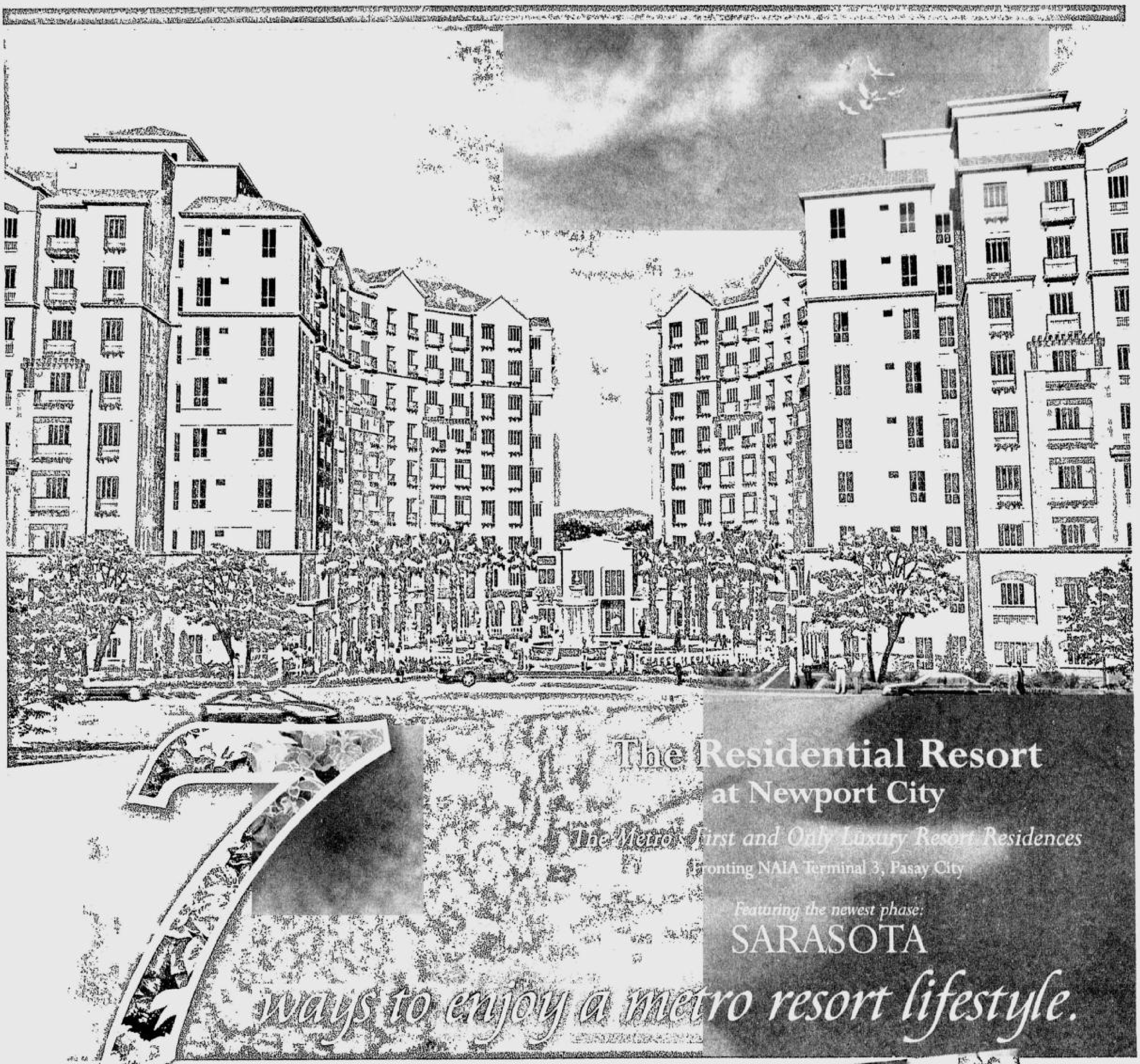
## Luis "Chique" Belzunce Dela Rosa

*Died on the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, Tuesday, August 15, 2006 in Glendale, California at the age of 58.*

He is survived by his wife, **Sarah Garcia**, mother **Angeles Belzunce**, children **Jaja** and **David Waasdorp**, **Feliz** and **Josh Schippe** and **Louie**, grandchildren, **Jacob**, **Sean** and **Sara** and his brothers and sisters, **Raffy**, **Ginger**, **Menchu**, **Mike**, **Eddie**, **Maricel**, **Bobby**, **Charito**, **Monina** and **Maribel**.

Funeral arrangements in the US will be announced later.



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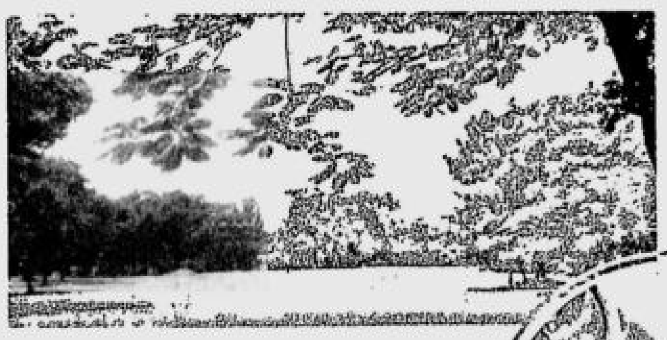

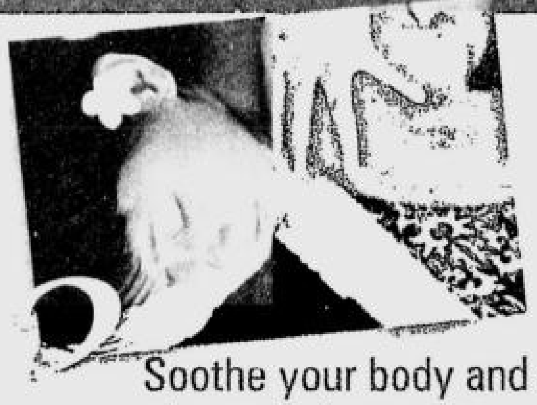

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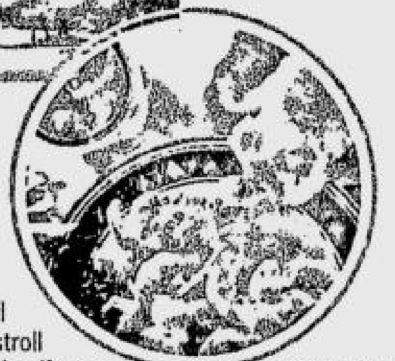

Dine on the best of the East and West. Choose from casual and fine-dining places—all a stroll away from home. And delight in alfresco gourmet feasts as you watch live performances.

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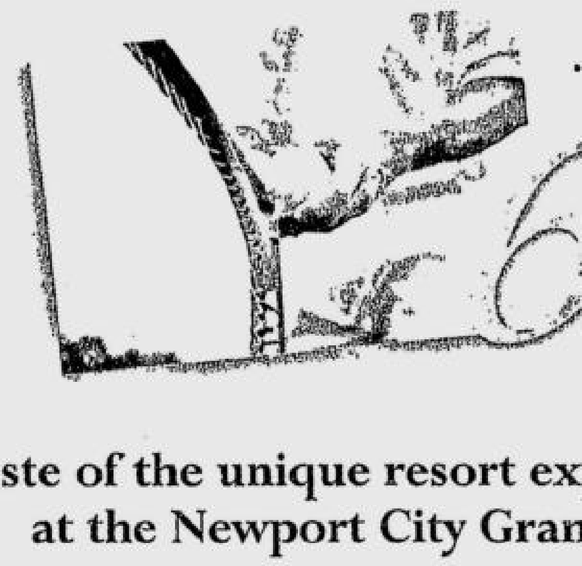
### 6 Get together with neighbors at the play areas.



Nurture neighborly ties. Lounge with friends at the swimming pool. Work out together at the gym. Hone your game at the badminton and tennis courts or putting green. Or bond with your families at the landscaped gardens and playground.

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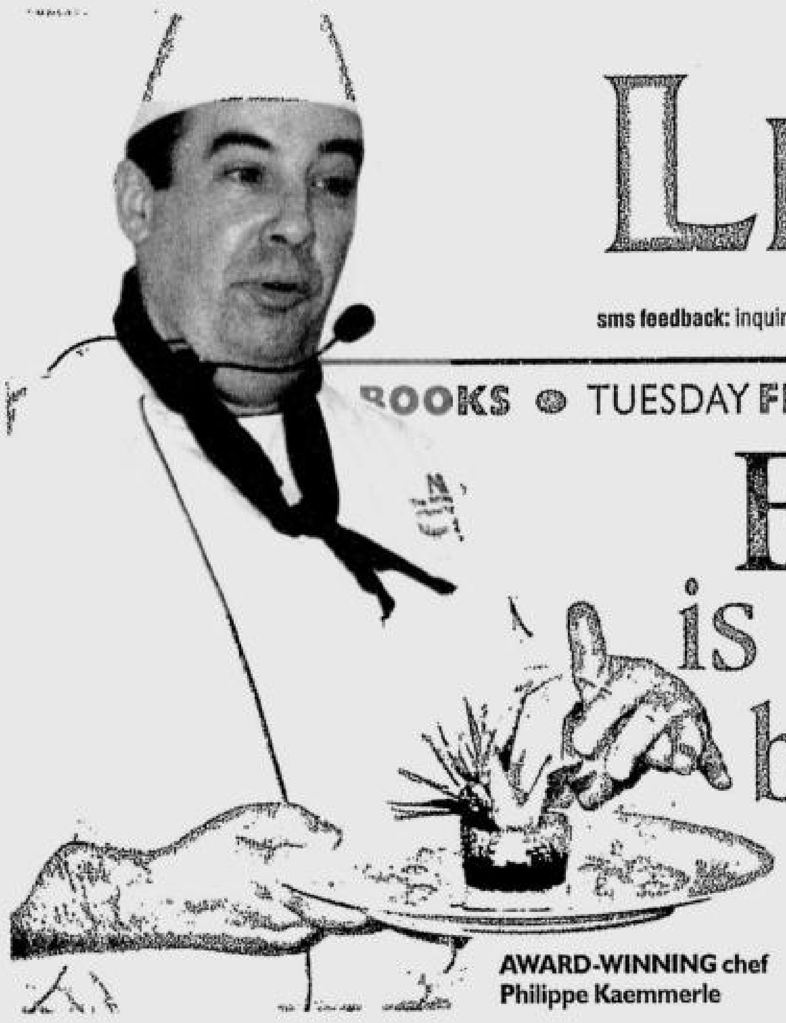
# Excellence is not measured by the height of the toque



AWARD-WINNING chef Philippe Kaemmerle

CHOCOLATE Marquise with Mangoes

## There is never an end to learning the art of cooking

**Text by Margaux Salcedo**
**Photos by Roger Carpio**

CHEF PHILIPPE KAEMMERLE is a professor of culinary arts in New York City.

His very impressive resume boasts of being part of the private catering team for the king of Sweden and being a chef for leading restaurants in New York City, such as The 21 Club, Aquavit and Windows of the World.

The Discovery Channel also tapped Kaemmerle for its Great Chefs Series that aired in the United States. The media giant also published a book of recipes from the select "great chefs."

After a bite of Chef Philippe's Chocolate Marquise with Mangoes, you immediately understand why he is very well appreciated. After over 20 years in the industry, 13 of them spent as chef instructor at the Art Institute of New York, he truly understands how to play with your palate by means of dessert.

First he delights your eyes by the inviting presentation of a simple chocolate opera cake very creatively placed on a *tulipe* batter and garnished with colorful pulled sugar décor. Then he brings all sorts of textures to your mouth: a very creamy chocolate marquise, a crunchy middle layer of cocoa crispies bathed in semisweet chocolate, and syrupy strings of mango sauce.

And the final kick is his play on tastes, mixing the deep bitterness of very good French chocolate with the delicate sweetness of his own mango sauce that curiously incorporates orange juice and lime juice.

It is no wonder he was awarded the Gold Medal for Paris Gourmet by the Societe Culinaire Philanthropique, the oldest association of chefs and pastry chefs in the world.

### Generous

Yet what is most inspiring about this chef is his generosity with his craft. Currently on an educational sabbatical from the Art Institute, he offered to share his culinary expertise with aspiring chefs and restaurateurs at the Enderun College in Ortigas as guest instructor.

In a speech before Enderun students and faculty, he said "working in the restaurant industry requires more common sense than people realize... It takes creativity, innovation and teamwork to work in this highly competitive environment. Workers must learn to do tasks quickly and accurately and to be flexible to keep up with the often fast pace."

He stressed the importance of hard work and humility. "In this business, hardworking and motivated employees can move up quickly. Outstanding food service personnel are often rewarded with rapid promotions and salary increases, regardless of their age."

When asked if the hat got taller as a chef was promoted, he smiled and quickly replied, "It is not the height of the hat that makes a good chef. It is what you know, what you have to offer."

He noted with humor that some of today's more popular chefs even fancy wearing baseball caps.

He stressed the importance of patience, saying he himself would work for weeks on a single display. "Competing consists of successes and failures, but failures never dampened my spirit in participating again in top events. In fact, it even made me more knowledgeable."

### Quest

This constant quest to expand his knowledge led him to the Philippines. He is very eager to learn about Filipino desserts, particularly *kakanin* or rice cakes. He hopes to be able to visit the countryside and see how locals make delicacies like *bibingka* and *suman*.

As part of the educational sabbatical, he must learn various Southeast Asian desserts and share this knowledge with students of the Art Institute of New York when he gets

EXCELLENCE/ C2

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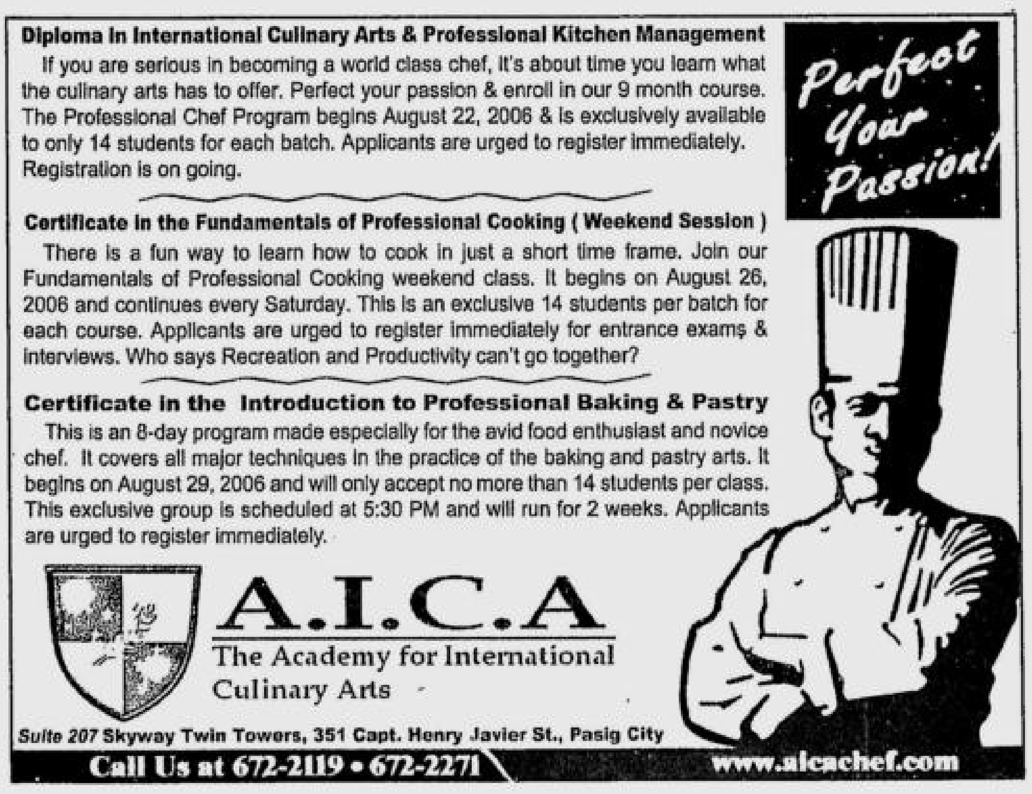
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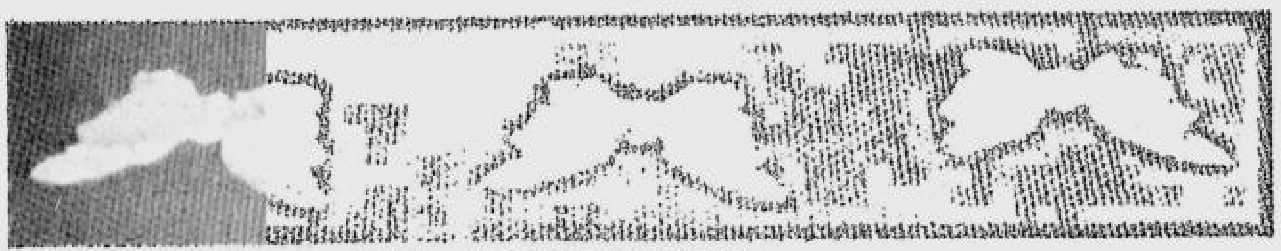
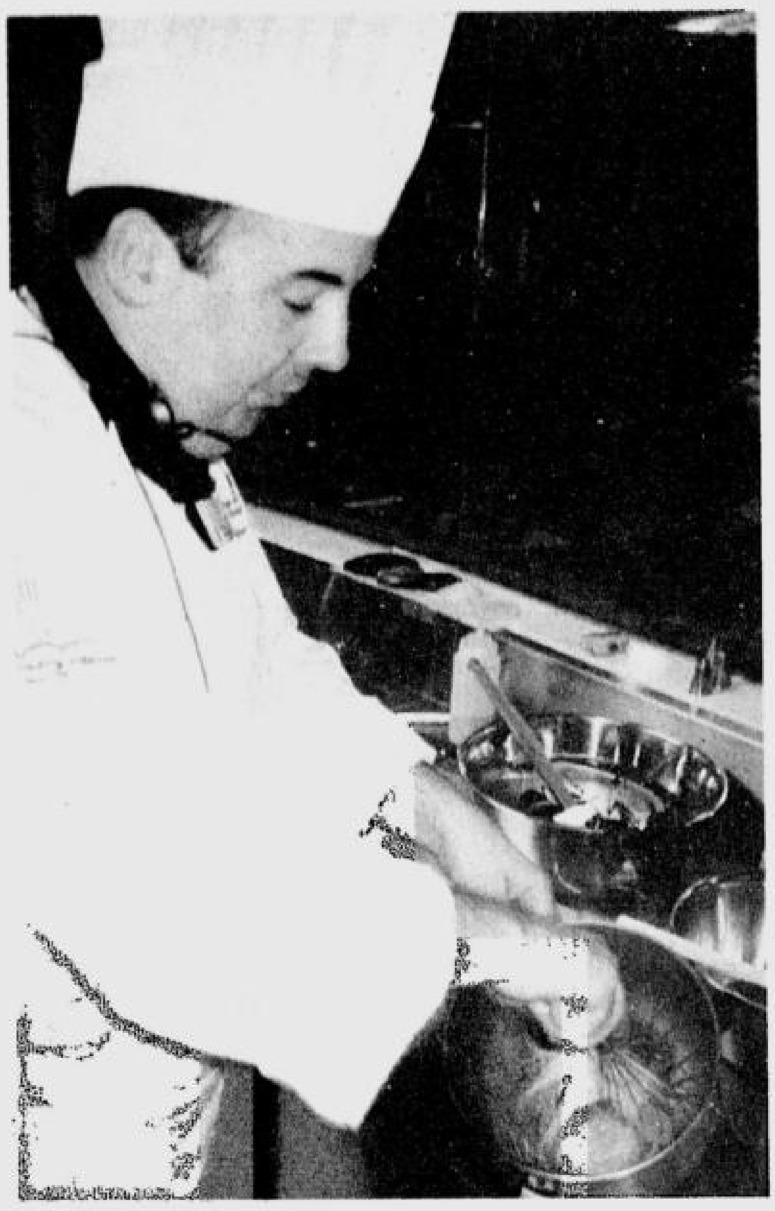


THESE sugar butterflies are ready to be part of a Kaemmerle dessert.

# Excellence is not . . .



A CHEF must learn to do tasks quickly and accurately and to be flexible to keep up with the often fast pace, says Kaemmerle.

From page C1

home.

After tasting Filipino food in no less than Malacañang, where he was invited to sample local cuisine by President Arroyo herself, he said he enjoyed local dishes and saw so much potential in Filipino food gaining international recognition.

He noted that there were hardly any Filipino restaurants in New York. But if Filipino food could be presented simply, in a way that would merit fine dining, it undoubtedly would be appreciated by even the most picky New Yorkers.

### Time to go global

He observed, "It is time to take products from [the Philippines] and present these to the world."

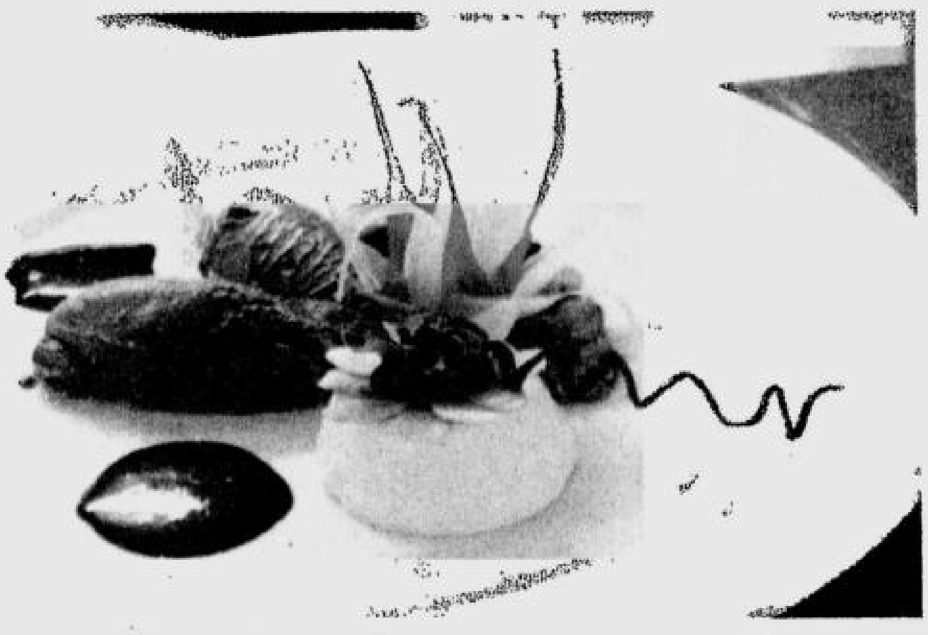
On his tour of the Philippines, he said he was continually inspired. He said he took pictures of unique Filipino flowers that he would use when he made pulled sugar back in Manhattan.

The students at Enderun were equally inspired. They watched intently as he demonstrated how to make his award-winning panna cotta with chocolate mousse and bananas.

The dessert recipe has four portions. Each portion is seemingly simple yet, to achieve the desired taste, the handling is clearly more complicated than it appears. Kaemmerle even factored in the weather in discussing the procedures for the recipe.

Presenting his award-winning desserts to warm applause from the students of Enderun, Chef Philippe capped his demo by emphasizing to the students that in their hands was the "opportunity to raise the hospitality industry to a higher level of excellence."

With a smile, he shared the secret to the longevity of his career: "There is never an end to learning this art."



PANNA Cotta with Chocolate Mousse and bananas

CHEF Philippe tells students they have the "opportunity to raise the hospitality industry to a higher level of excellence."

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DINING OUT

# Malaysian food fest

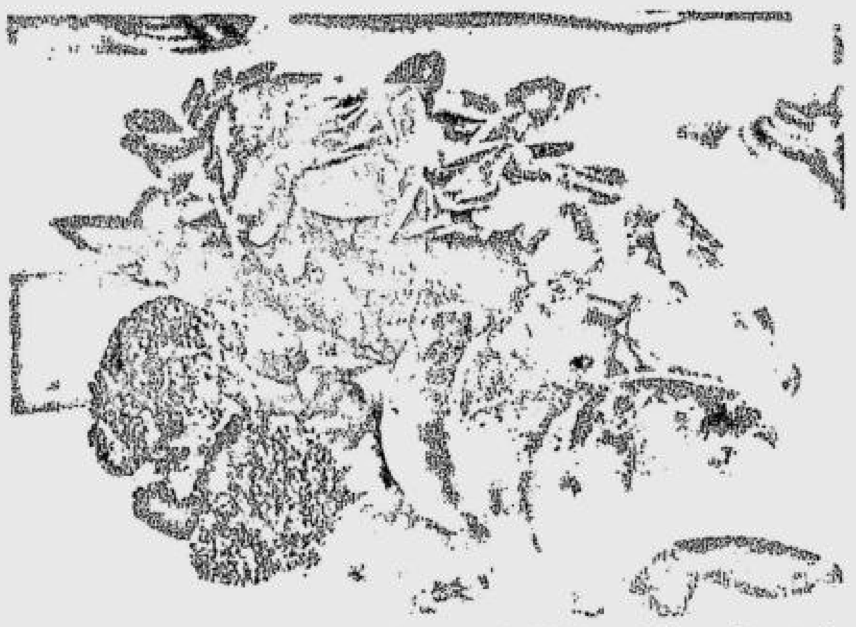
**THE HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA'S** (THHM) Restaurant Riviera presents Malaysian cuisine, "Malaysia…Truly Asia's Kitchen," until Aug. 31. Price is P950+ per person for dinner or lunch buffet. It is presented with Tourism Malaysia and will highlight the flavors of Malaysian cuisine that blends cooking traditions of Malay, Indian, Eurasian and Chinese. Featured are authentic Malaysian dishes,such as Otak-otak, Roti Prata, Nasi Lemak, Ikan Panggang, Chicken Curry and icy dessert, Ais Kacang. Call 8548888.

**HYATT HOTEL'S** Li Li presents Shanghainese dishes until Aug. 31. Dishes include Beggar's Chicken in delectable Lotus Leaf, Shanghainese Quick-Fried Eel and the Soya-Braised Dumplings on Shanghai Cabbage. As an added treat, Shanghainese *dim sum* will also be available during the Sunday Yum Cha lunch at Li Li. Call 2451234.

**MANILA PAVILION HOTEL'S** Seasons presents Paella Mania this month. Paella dishes include Assorted Sausage and Artichoke with Tomato Herb Rice; Roast Chicken Mushroom with Blue Cheese and Chopped Walnut Rice; Fresh Crab with Oriental Vegetables and Fried Beancurd in Yellow Rice; Paella Valenciana with Prawns and Mussels; Satay with Nasi Goreng, Fried Egg, Kropeck and Peanut Sauce; Seafood Filipiniana Rice with Grilled Vegetables; and Paella with Beef Stripes Creole, Cajun, Roast Corn and Bell Peppers. Price is P850+ per person. Lunch buffet: 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; dinner buffet: 6:30-10:30 p.m. It's Chef Lee Special at Peony Garden. Call 5261212 local 2318.

**INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA'S** Café Jeepney presents "Ube Temptations" promo until Aug. 31. *Ube*, a purple native yam staple, is the featured ingredient in a special a la carte menu consisting of soups, appetizers, main dishes and desserts. Call 8159711.

**DENCIO'S** has bundled some of its best-selling Filipino dishes into set menus good for five or 10 persons. Available combinations for *barkada* or family get-togethers are: set A—Sinigang na Baboy, Kangkong at Bagoong, Sizzling Chicken ala Gambas and Nilasing na Hipon sa Taba ng Talangka; set B—Pork Barbecue, Pancit Dencio's, Molo Soup and Pinakbet; set C—Kare-Kare, Chicken BBQ, Chopsuey and Sizzling Tiyan ng Bangus; set D—Inihaw na Liempo, Ensaladang Mangga, Kare-Kareng Gulay and Sizzling Bangus. All sets come with Pork Sisig and rice. Visit www.dencios.biz



RICHMONDE Grill features executive sous chef Ed Santos' Almond-coated Boneless Chicken Breast this month. The Chef's Recommendation, priced at P275+, is part of the hotel's all-day dining menu. Call 6387777 or 6898419.

BELLEVUE Hotel presents Seafood Shower promo at the Café D'Asie Aug. 24-27. Dishes include Singaporean Chili Mussels, Sweet and Sour Snapper Fillet, Salmon Medallions in Saffron Cream, Steamed Crab with Ginger and Leek, Broiled Sea Bass Indonesian-Style, Jumbo Shrimp a La Nage, Rellenong Pusit and Fried Crab in Black Bean Sauce. Call 7718181.

METRO Menu in Metrowalk offers a specialty menu of flavored rice inspired by different Philippine regions and other Asian countries. On offer are Fragrant Coconut, Vinegared Rice, Indian Biryani Rice and Turmeric Rice. Other house specialties are California Shrimp Salad, Tender Beef Stroganoff and Menu Spanish Seafood, among others. The two-story Metro Menu has function rooms named after wines. The whole restaurant can accommodate 200-250 people. Metro Menu is at Metrowalk, Ortigas. Call 6334445 or 6317025. E-mail menu_metrowalk@yahoo.com

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# Breastfeeding is core program of US health campaign

By Linda B. Bolido

THE CONSUMER

*"WALANG KUKURAP."* IF YOU DO, YOU may miss the reminder in television advertisements for children's milk that breast milk is best for babies up to six months of age.

It is apparent that the one-liner is, for many milk ads, an afterthought, a grudging concession to a legal requirement to inform people that breast milk should be preferred to infant formula.

Most TV milk ads use some 99.999 percent of visual and audio material touting features that will turn kids into future Einsteins, Michelangelos, Shakespeares or Beethovens.

After all the hype, with viewers so fired up they feel like rushing to the nearest store to buy the products even if they don't have an infant, the commercials end with that one-liner about breast milk that is gone in the blink of an eye.

Ironically, in the Philippines where existing conditions point to the need for breastfeeding as the safer, healthier and cheaper guarantee of young children's health, advocates of the practice have to use so much energy and time to be heard.

What are those conditions? Lack of access to potable water for a large segment of the population, absence of hygienic facilities for preparing an

d storing milk, and the high cost of formula (a small can costs more than P100) are just a few of them.

Recently, coming home from the United States, I saw at the airport pre-departure lounge a slim, blonde 30-ish woman give her breast very discreetly to her son who was about a year old. Her blouse had overlaps that made it possible to feed in public without exposing herself.

In contrast, many women who sleep on the streets of Manila give their very young children bottles containing liquids that look like extremely watered-down milk. Usually, since infant formula is expensive, the watered-down drink that these infants get is condensed milk, which has more sugar than what's good for a growing child.

Between that blonde, who could travel from San Francisco to Reykjavik, Iceland (that's where the flight she boarded was going) with her three children, and a woman who lives on the street, the latter would benefit more from breast-feeding as she would not have to buy milk nor worry about finding clean water to mix with the milk or to wash the bottle. It would also be easier for her to keep her breast clean for her suckling child.

And now, while the Philippines still struggles to make women return to breastfeeding, the New York Times has reported that the US' new public health campaign, Healthy People 2010, would have breastfeeding as a core program.

Roni Rabin, who wrote the story, said one of the unambiguous messages of the new campaign would be: "Public health officials have determined that not breastfeeding may be hazardous to your baby's health." This follows a recent announcement by the World Health Organization that breastfeeding should be the "biological norm" for infant nutrition.

Although there are some disagreements about the extent of breast milk's disease-preventing and growth-promoting benefits, there is generally a consensus that it is still superior to formula.

Rabin reported, "Scientific evidence supports the contention that breastfed babies are less vulnerable to acute infectious diseases, including respiratory and gastro-intestinal infections, experts say. Some studies also suggest that breastfed babies are at lower risk from sudden infant death syndrome and serious chronic diseases later in life, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics."

### Butt out

During an environment conference in the Cook Islands, media participants were shown a jarful of cigarette butts eaten by a marine turtle who thought they were food. Not surprisingly, the waste caused the reptile's demise.

Carelessly thrown cigarette butts can end up in the most unexpected places. Hence, the appeal from the Ecological Waste Coalition to smokers not to turn Mother Earth into a giant ashtray.

The coalition says the cigarette butts not only spoil the surroundings but also represent threats to people's health and the environment.

Cigarette filters often end up in rivers and seas where they leach toxins into the marine ecosystems, poisoning aquatic animals that eat them.

The coalition says cigarette filters contain plastic fibers that will not quickly disintegrate in water, sunlight or soil.

### Three in a row

Congratulations to Citibank Philippines for winning, for the third time, Global Finance magazine's Best Consumer Internet Bank award for its website www.citibank.com.ph

*Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph* **—Editor**

# In a nutshell

**COUNTRY COOKING**

*Micky Fenix*

MY FIRST AND ONLY trip to Naga City in Bicol was eons ago.

At the time, the things that I knew to be synonymous with the place were *siling labuyo*, *gabi* and *pili* nuts.

I presumed that, in Bicol, every backyard had the fiery *sili* growing in pots. And *gabi* plant grew here and there.

But having no idea how a *pili* tree looked, I asked my friend, my host, where the trees were planted. Her whole family laughed at the question. They pointed to an area outside the house and told me, "Everywhere."

And there they were, indeed... Later, as we drove through the city, the trees lined the road as well.

My *pili (Canarium ovatum)* knowledge at that point included the nut and the tree. The nut has always been a favorite. I love it salted, cooked in sugar (*carmelitos*) or crushed then made into *mazapan* bars.

Those bars were always so expensive, too much for my meager school allowance. But I managed to buy some and relished each bite. *Pili* bars were too rich for one eating and had to be refrigerated or they turned rancid.

But the *suspiros* that came in little boxes made of bond paper became an early favorite not only because it was more affordable but also because its name meant "sighs." It was a collectible word in case I needed a title for a future romance novel.

## 'Fresh' experience

That's about the sum of my *pili* experience. Until last week when Beth Romualdez, author of "Cooking Lessons" (Anvil Publishing) called to ask if I wanted to try some fresh *pili* fruits.

Since my schedule was tight, I told her to just send me some. But she insisted I had to eat the fruit with her because it wasn't easy to explain how it should be eaten. She also said the fruits wouldn't be good after a few days. Well, when she put it that way, I had to make time.

On her kitchen work table were some small, longish deep purple fruits I presumed were *pili*. They looked like small avocados. Why I didn't see those fruits on that first trip to Naga could have been because it was not the season for them or I wasn't paying close attention.

Beth boiled water, turned the heat off, put some of the fruits in the pot and waited. In the meantime, she took one of the remaining fruits and pointed to the end with a white spot, the part that connected the fruit to the branch.

She said this was the *mata* (eye) and the bigger it was, the creamier the flesh. *Manatok* was her Bicol word for that.

Always the good hostess, she said we had to eat the fruits with the dinner she prepared.

On the table were small fish called *salay salay*, already fried. Beth said the *pili* was always eaten with fried or grilled fish. At their Bicol table, she said each diner would have a plate of *pili*, a dipping sauce of *patis* Bicol and rice.

When the fruit was peeled and its fibrous body removed, what remained was the nut in its tough shell, brown and pointed at both ends. The unshelled nuts were gathered on a tray at the table, then cut expertly, the meat removed whole, its skin covered with a thin film.

My hostess gave me my first peeled *pili* fruit and instructed me to tear off the flesh then dip it in *patis* Bicol. My first whiff and then taste reminded me of something I had eaten before but couldn't quite place.

I still can't remember but I've asked other people to taste it. Maybe their own recollection will jog my memory. One said, cheese. But many said they didn't know. It did have the scent of *pili*, a sort of mild ammonia with its wake-me-up quality.

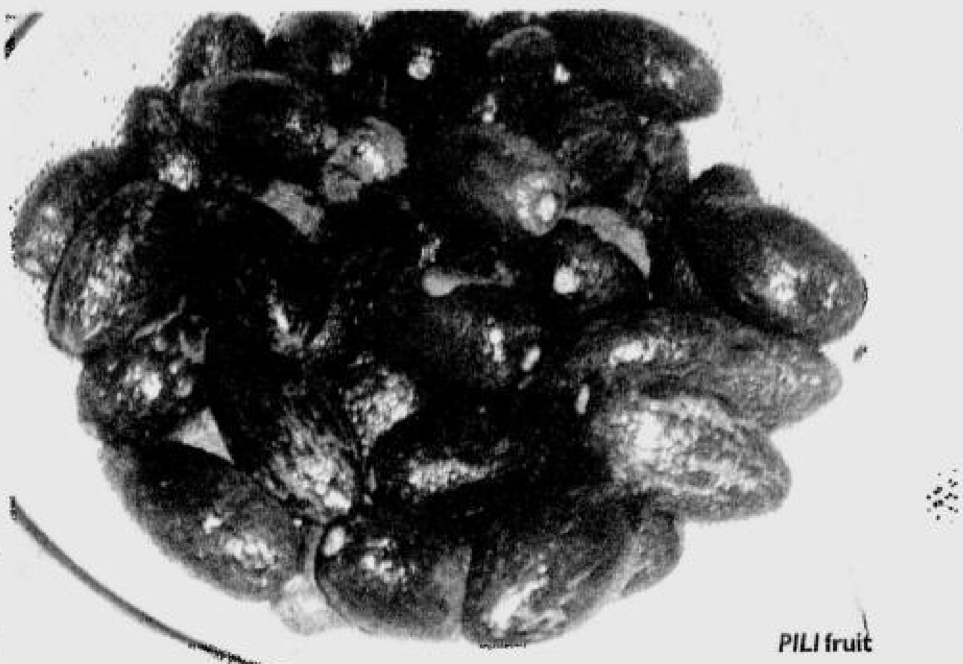
I ate the entire combination the way it must be eaten in Bicol, including using my hands. A strip of fish, a tear of *pili* dipped in the sauce and rice.

That was my second lesson in Bicol food from Beth. The first was three years ago when she cooked *patis* Bicol and the mushroom delicacy called *kurakding*.

## Pink 'patis'

That time, I expected to find the golden liquid of *patis* but instead stared at a pinkish purple concoction in a bottle. She drained the liquid from the container and placed it into boiling coconut cream, stirring frequently.

Next she put the aromatics—*suha* leaves, *calamansi* peel and lemon grass. It was cooked when oil from the coconut cream appeared on the surface and the mixture had thickened.



*PILI* fruit

The *kurakding*, on the other hand, was already rehydrated from its dried state. Beth said it took a while to clean the mushrooms that appeared to be as thin as pencil shavings because some bits of wood from the trees where the fungus grew, remained.

It was wonderful to taste the *kurakding* and *patis* Bicol again. Beth had also cooked rice, a purple one from Laos that she said was a mix of three varieties. It was like a reminder that she would travel to that Southeast Asian country in a few days for still more cooking lessons from her mentor.

But that wasn't all. She unwrapped a package of *pinangat* or *gabi* leaf packet. The leaves came from Camalig, known for the velvety quality of its *gabi*, Beth said. That quality certainly contributed to the creamy and wonderfully light *pinangat*.

As if those weren't enough, Beth surprised us as another bowl was brought. She had also cooked *binagoongang baboy*, pork cooked in fermented shrimp fry. This was her version and, like the *pili*, there was a way to eat it.

She said to take some of the pork, bite into the green finger chili, the rind of the *calamansi* cooked in the mix and a ripe banana (*latundan*). Again, a combination of tastes that complement each other.

I did notice that when I bit the chili, there was none of the expected hotness. Was I becoming a true Bicolano?

*E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com*

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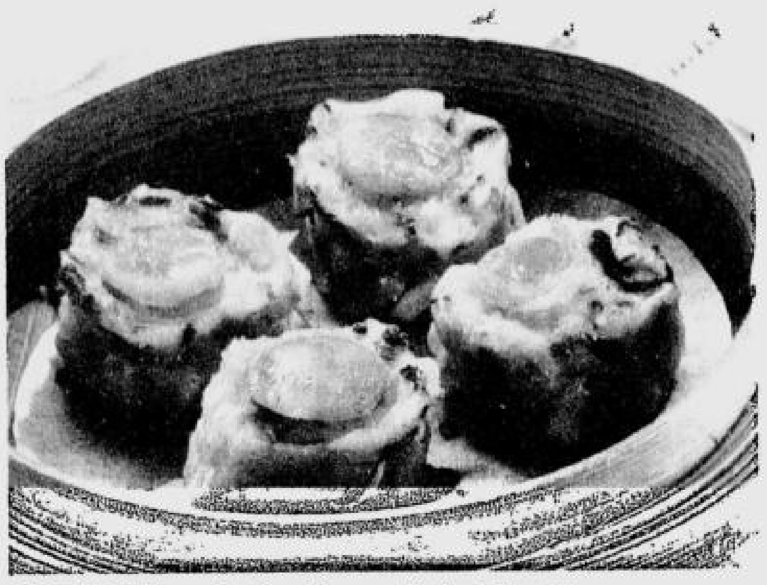
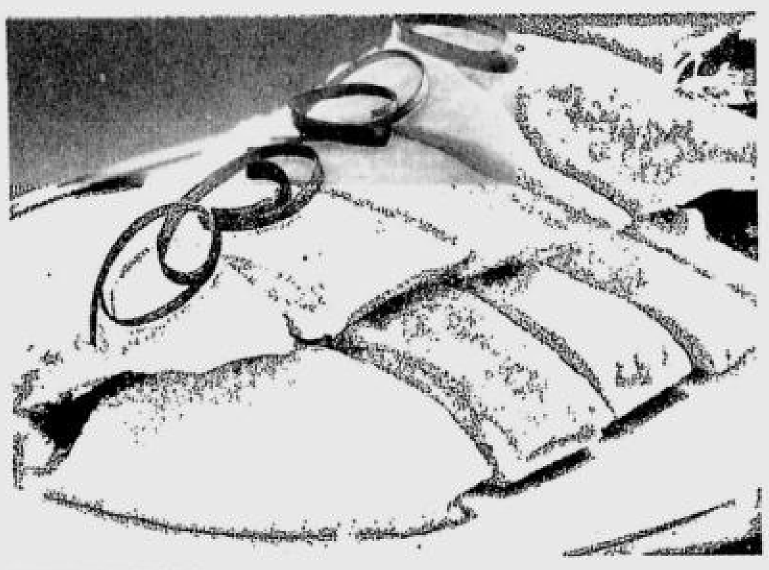
# Award-winning resto now in Makati



**EASTWOOD** branch offers diners unlimited dim sum.



**DRUNKEN** Chicken

SHANGHAI BISTRO, WHICH serves authentic Shanghai and Hong Kong dishes, has opened a branch at Paseo Center in Makati City.

Owned by Asia Finest Cuisine, Inc., the bistro also has a branch at Eastwood Citywalk 2 in QC.

Eastwood offers diners unlimited Dim Sum and a choice of special Suckling Pig set meals. The Paseo outlet, on the other hand, features "all you can eat" lunch buffet. Guests may also enjoy additional freebies and discounts if they apply for the Loyal Diner card.

The bistro, which has a teahouse theme, has a team of award-winning culinary Hong Kong chefs. Some of its bestsellers are Dim Sum, Siao Lung Pao, Drunken Chicken, Pan-fried Beef Tenderloin Chinese-Style and Chef's Milkfish Masterpiece.

The restaurant draws from the rich culinary traditions of Shanghai, the Paris of the East, and Hong Kong, the melting pot of Asia, fusing the cooking styles of both places while adding a touch of Filipino flair to its recipes. The bistro was named No. 1 authentic Chinese Cuisine Restaurant of 2005 by the National Shoppers Choice Annual Awards.

Shanghai Bistro-Eastwood City has three function rooms: Nanjing, Jinmao and Orient Pearl, with a total seating capacity of 150. Meanwhile, Shanghai Bistro-Paseo's Suzhou and Hangzhou function rooms can accommodate 120 people.

Visit Shanghai Bistro at Bldg. A, Eastwood City Walk 2, Libis, QC (tel. 6877103 and 6871077); and 3/F, Paseo Center 8757 Paseo de Roxas cor Sedeño Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City (8928870 and 8928872).

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# *Big bucket treat for cardholders*

NEW HSBC CREDIT CARD holders, who charge at least P500 to their card by Aug. 31, may be able to get a KFC Big Bucket Meal for free.

People who apply for an HSBC card online may even get an additional 15-piece KFC Big Bucket Meal. The KFC Big Bucket Meal includes 15 pieces of chicken (mix and match) and five cups of rice.

The first annual fee is waived.

To avail of the promo, applicants must complete and submit the HSBC's KFC application form during the promo period that ends June 30. KFC promo cardholders whose applications are approved can get one 15-piece KFC Big Bucket Meal for free by activating their new cards and making at least P500 worth of purchases by Aug. 31.

The offer is not available to Mabuhay Miles Visa and Premier MasterCard holders.

Call 8787878 or visit www.hsbc.com.ph to apply for an HSBC credit card.

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# Free seminar on baking

SAN MIGUEL MILLS IS HOLDING THE "Learn, Bake, and Earn: Baking Made Easier" seminar, Aug. 19, at the San Miguel Head Office, Ortigas Center. The seminar will highlight the use and benefits of premixes like brownies, donuts, cookies, muffins, pancakes, pies, *siopao* and waffles. It will also feature lectures on food cart business opportunities for entrepreneurs. Call 7025649 or 7025058.

## CLASSES

### Halal cooking class

Learn "Halal Cooking" from an expert, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Aug. 26, at the Maya Kitchen: Dishes include Chicken Biryani, Kofta, Shiesh Kabab, Carahi Chicken and Qormah. Sourcing of Halal ingredients is included. Other sessions are "Bartending Basic," 2-6 p.m., Aug. 19; "Fundamentals of Bakery Production," 2-6 p.m., Aug. 22-25; "Free Baking Demo," 4-5 p.m., Aug. 25; and "Coffee Basic 101 (Barista Course)," 2-6 p.m., Aug. 26. Maya Kitchen is at 8/F, Liberty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph

### Birthday cakes & candy-making

Dorothy's Cooking School (DCS) will be holding a hands-on birthday cake workshop until Aug. 20. A two-day hands-on class on chocolate candy making will be conducted on Aug. 22-23, in time for the holiday season. For those who are into cooking pasta, a class will be held in the morning of Aug. 26, while a sans rival class will be held on the same day at 2 p.m. DCS is owned by cookbook author and culinary expert Dorothy Ferreria. Call 7217735, 7217749 and 4167968.

### Seafood, 'empanada,' ribs

The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will have the following classes:

Aug. 19—"The Best From the Sea" (all-new!)—Oyster Foundue, Brined Norwegian Smoked Salmon Salad, Smoked Salmon Chowder, Chilean Sea Bass Osso Buco, Honey Walnut Prawns with Fried Rice, Seared Bass with Brocolli Risotto.

Aug. 21—"Empanadas and Calzones"—Empanadas: Mushroom, Beef, Duck, Chorizo. Calzone: Pizza; Sausage.

Aug. 23—"More Ribs '06" (all new!)—Apple Brined Pork Ribs, Grape Pork Ribs, Country Horseradish Ribs Baby Back, Sarsi Rootbeer Baby Back Ribs, Bourbon Baby Back Ribs. Sides: Red Bean Stew, etc. Call 9289296, 9273008 or 6335162.

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# Food writing competition deadline

THE DEADLINE for submission of entries to the Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Food Writing contest is 5 p.m., Aug. 31.

Theme of this year's contest is "Kakanin," the generic name for Filipino native cakes. Though the word suggests rice or *kanin* as basic ingredient, it can also mean cakes that use root crops (e.g. cassava, *kamote*), fruit (e.g. *saba*) and other grains (corn, millet). *Kakanin* can be cylindrical like the *suman*, square, rectangle, triangle or rounded like *puto*.

Entries must contain descriptions of shape, color, ingredients, packaging, manner of cooking and taste. Research on origins, citing essays from other writings on the subject and interviews with *kakanin* specialists earn additional points.

Every entry must be an essay in English of not less than 4,500 characters or more than 5,000 characters (800 words). It must be printed on two pages of short bond paper, double-spaced. A digital copy (Word file or Rich Text Format) in floppy disk or CD should also be submitted.

All contestants must use a pen name on the essay. An author's information sheet should be in a separate sealed envelop. It should provide the contestant's name; pen name; residential address and telephone number; business address and telephone number (for those who work); and cell-phone number.

The competition is open to all, except members of the IWFS Manila Ladies Branch, their spouses and children. Former winners and participants can join again.

Each contestant can submit two entries. Send to: Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Food Writing Award 2006; Prism, 5/F, PDAF Bldg., Senator Gil Puyat Ave., Makati, 1200

E-mail dgfawards@yahoo.com.ph or call 8952021.

Cash prizes, donated by the Filipino Heritage Festival, Inc., are: first prize winner, P10,000; and runner-up, P5,000. Trophies and gift certificates will be given by bookstores, publishing houses and restaurants.

Winners will be announced in September.

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# Starting on a 'sour note'

Each vinegar has unique qualities that using one instead of another alters a dish's landscape

**KITCHEN RESCUE**

*Reggie Aspiras*

**CAN YOU ENLIGHTEN ME ON VINEGARS? There seems to be so many. What is balsamic vinegar?**

KENNY

The word vinegar comes from the French *"vin aigre,"* which means sour wine. It is made of fermented liquid that can range from wine, cider, beer, juice, etc.

The more popular varieties are French wine vinegars made from red or white wine; British malt vinegar from malted barley; the American apple cider vinegar from fermented apple cider; herb vinegars made by steeping herbs in them; rice vinegar from fermented rice; fruit vinegars from a mix of fruit; and cane vinegar from sugar cane.

The varieties seem endless. Vinegars they all are, but each has unique qualities that using one instead of another alters the landscape of a dish.

As for the Italian balsamic vinegar, "Balsamic translates to 'like balsam.' Balsam [is an] aromatic resin thus balsamic vinegar means no more than thick/resin-like and aromatic."

Made from white Trebbiano grape juice, it gets its dark color and pungent sweetness from aging in barrels, made of various types of wood in graduating sizes, over a number of years.

In the balsamic capital of Modena, the vinegar is aged for at least 6-12 years, some for 50-100 years. And, as proof that the best things in life are not free, the most exquisite can sell for over US$200 per ounce!

It is such prime commodity that it is included in wills and part of dowries of ladies of nobility. When American troops advanced to Modena in '44, the vinegar was packed, together with jewelry and money, for safekeeping.

**Is there really an association between an actual apple and New York's being called the Big Apple? Is the connection food related?**

MELISSA POSADA

Great question!

What I gathered was that the association began in the '20s, in race tracks in and around New York. Back in those days, an "apple" was viewed as desirable, a much coveted thing. Since big money was involved in the tracks, the tracks had big apples, figuratively!

**VINEGAR** even for the local cuisine comes in many varieties depending on what it is made of.

Later on musicians started using the term for NYC. The term stuck so much so that in the '70s it was used in an extensive tourism campaign. Thus the Big Apple, NYC, as we know it today!

**I see *courgette* in recipe books. What is it? And what is *en chemise*?**

ALEC

*Courgette* is just the French word for zucchini, and it is the name used for the vegetable in most parts of Europe.

Chemise means loose undergarments, shirt or vest. In the culinary world, *en chemise* means cooking things in their own skin, like potatoes, etc. It also sometimes refers to food that is covered with aspic.

**[As] a regular reader of your column, I am very delighted with the tips and cooking ideas you give. I never had a food allergy. But recently I have had allergic reactions due to my pregnancy (now on my seventh month) so preparing food for my self is an everyday problem. Chicken, pork, oily foods and nuts are out. Please advise and suggest what I can easily prepare. By the way, I also work.**

SHERLYN R. ROSAL

I could not answer this myself. I am not about to take a risk with your condition. I thought it best to ask Dr. Eileen Alikpala Cuajunco, adult and pediatric allergy and immunology expert. She would know best. I hope this helps, Sherlyn. A safe delivery to you!

The doctor says: "There are a number of allergic conditions that may arise as a result of [pregnancy]. These include atopic dermatitis, popularly referred to as 'skin asthma,' and *urticaria* (hives) or locally referred to as '*tagulabay*,' which are raised, red itchy bumps of varying sizes in the shallow layers of the skin.

"The obstetrician, together with an allergologist (allergy expert), can determine what the skin problem is, the safe medications and what [food] would be best to avoid. Although food is a common trigger for the appearance of rashes, it may not be the only cause.

"The environment, even the patient's hormonal state, can contribute to the appearance of the rashes. The basic elements of allergic disease management are allergen avoidance and medication. Unless you know and have experienced that eating chicken, pork and oily foods has worsened your skin condition, avoiding these on the notion that they might cause your rashes is not necessary.

"This is also true for fish and shellfish. However, if chicken, pork, oily food and nuts are your triggers, it is best to avoid them and go for beef, lamb, fish, vegetables and fruit. [As long as they are not fried], you should be fine.

"As a reminder to a pregnant mom, breast milk is much less likely to produce an allergic reaction and can strengthen a child's immune system. Exclusively breastfeed your baby for the first six months of his/her life."

*Contact Dr. Eileen Alikpala Cuajunco at the Adult and Pediatric Allergy and Immunology department, The Medical City Medical Arts Tower, tels. 6336686; 6356789 local 5163.*

*E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph*

Shop, Cook & Learn at CCA Center for Culinary Arts, Manila Farmers Market

Daily Courses Available (Effective August 13, 2006)

Our satellite school at the Araneta Center's Farmers Market features CREATIVE RECREATIONAL SHORT COURSES that will ignite your culinary senses. With a unique concept that is a first of its kind in the Philippines, our chef instructors will guide you in shopping for the right ingredients within the Market, and return to the school to prepare all those sumptuous recipes.

*Mondays - 1 to 5 PM & 6 to 10 PM*
**"Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?"** (Bars, Cookies, and Fabulous Munchies). Design and decorate cookies for all those occasions. Master simple techniques – piping without tips, designing w/ icings and sugar décor – for beautiful cookies. Create bars, cookies, biscottis, chocolate chips and more!

*Tuesdays- 1 to 5 PM & 6 to 10 PM*
**"Gutomako"** (Sushi Making). Learn everything you need in making a beautiful assortment of sushi and maki rolls. Pick up the basics – cooking sushi rice, cutting and assembling the fillings and rolling ingredients using a bamboo mat. An experience not to be missed. *

*Wednesdays- 1 to 5 PM & 6 to 10 PM*
**"Our Daily Bread"** (Heavenly Bread Variations). Savor the pleasure of making basic and specialty breads. Learn to work with yeast, create dough from various flour, make pan de sal, spanish bread rolls, loaves, and ethnic varieties. Make your own ensalmada and bring it home to your family.

*Thursdays- 1 to 5 PM & 6 to 10 PM*
**"Fish Tayo!"** (Cooking with Fish). Learn the basics of selecting a good fish "catch". Prepare treats from the sea such as Steamed Fish du Jour w/ Sesame oil; Kinilaw na Tanigue; Herb Crusted Maya-Maya; Bulgan & Almond Croquettes w/ Mango Ginger Coulis. *

*Fridays - 1 to 5 PM & 6 to 10 PM*
**"Piece of Cake!"** (All-time Favorite Cakes). Learn folding, tempering, icing, kneading and rolling and much more! Appreciate the techniques and concepts of cake baking as you prepare classics such as Chocolate Mousse Cake and assemble cakes for special occasions.

** Course includes Farmers Market Tour*

*Saturdays*
***7 to 11 AM* - "Great Wall of Farmers Market"** (Chinese Cuisines). Focus on the more traditional and popular Chinese dishes with insights into the basic ingredients, seasonings and techniques of this fascinating cuisine. *

***12 to 4 PM* - "Barbecue Galore"** (African, Argentinian, Brazilian, and other Latin Variations of Barbecues). Learn to harness the deep spicy flavors of typically South American herbs, spices and condiments on your home grill. Take a culinary journey thru the lands of Latin America and the African savannah. *

***5 to 9 PM* - "Temptation Island"** (Various Chocolate Treats). There's much more to chocolate than chocolates. Learn the secrets to making more of your favorite, luscious, rich tasting chocolate treats, with emphasis on the fun and the hip from Chocolate Almond Truffles and Almond Praline.

*Sundays*
***7 to 11 AM* - "American Idol"** (American Country Dishes). Explore the unique flavors and ingredients of signature dishes of the American mainstream. You'll learn the characteristics of herbs and spices and master a number of dishes from the "Land of the Free and Home of the Brave." *

***12 to 4 PM* - "Top of the World"** (Stir-fried Combos with Rice Toppings). Learn how to cook under 20 minutes or less. Impress your family with mouth watering dishes that take less time before you can say "bon appetit!" *

***5 to 9 PM* - "Pasta't Tayo'y Magkasama"** (Various Pasta Dishes). If you haven't gotten an Italian mamma to teach you how to make pasta at home, let our chef guide you thru the process. Create fabulous pasta dishes such as Angel Hair Pasta w/ Smoked Fish, Penne with Sausage and Peppers, Seafood Lasagna, and Mushroom Ragout with Fussili and Garlic Cream.

**SHORT COURSES GIFT CERTIFICATE** - Why not give a friend a short course gift certificate for that special occasion?

**CUSTOMIZED COURSES** - Special classes can be arranged for individuals and groups depending on preferred topics and schedules. Why not have a culinary team bonding seminar or bridal shower?

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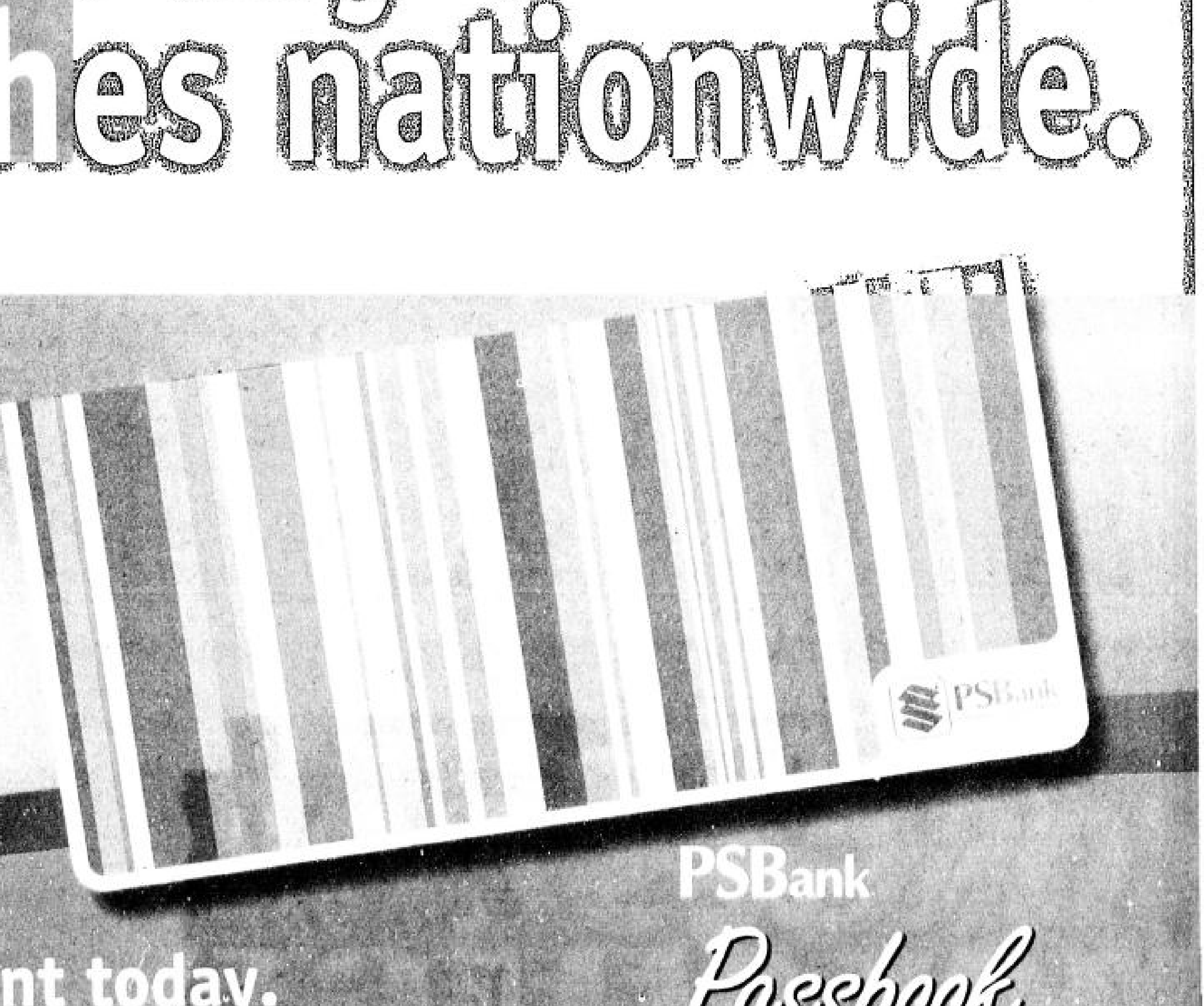

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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
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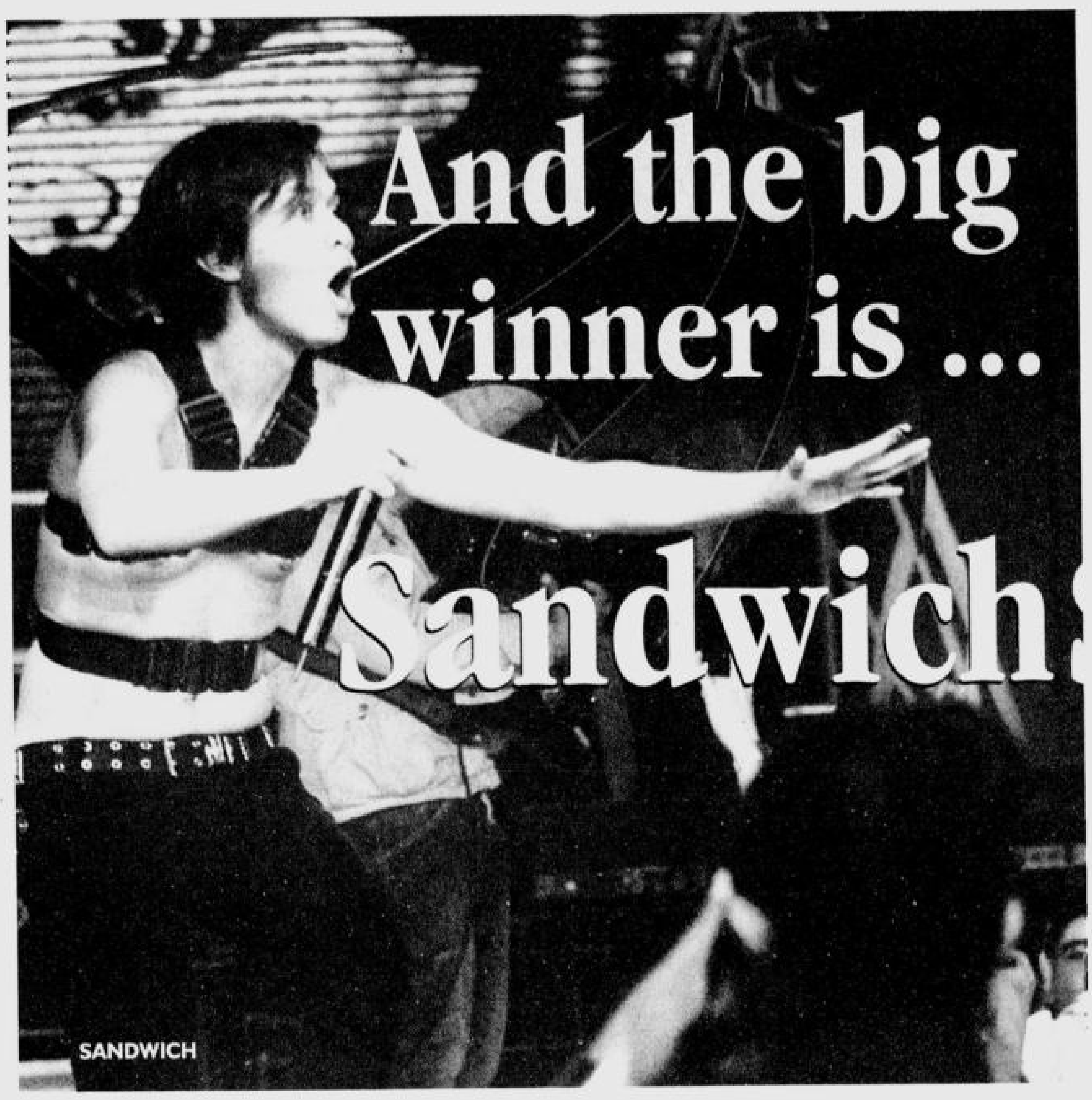
Sa mga
Todo
Lakas
mag-
Rock...
Colt 45
Drink Moderately
See page 3.

# And the big winner is ... Sandwich



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**By Pocholo Concepcion**
*Contributor*

THE PRELUDE fashion showcase sponsored by a new denim company set the stage for what happened in the MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards 2006 Monday night. Models flaunting wild, outlandish and ripped garments that recalled the punk rock era served as aperitif for the freewheeling and rambunctious nature of the performances and spiels all throughout.

MIG Ayesa

KC Montero

As the show opener, Parokya Ni Edgar and Kamikazee instigated bedlam—their respective vocalists appearing in "*kanto* boy" attire (Chito Miranda so at home in shorts and slippers, and Jay Contreras undulating his naked, tattooed torso), while leading a wildly thrashing back-to-back band with medleys of "Papa Cologne," "Narda" and "Ordertaker."

Later on, Imago would try to match that high-flying energy with a rendition of "Taralets," as lead singer Aia de Leon teased the audience before executing a head stand.

The program proper followed a traditional Pinoy family ties motif, requiring the VJs to wear native costumes but which, in deviant rock 'n' roll spirit, they matched

TITLE/ D2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ENTERTAINMENT
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2006

**SUNSHINE** Cruz

# Sunshine: I want viewers to see Bakekang, not me

By Nini Valera

**INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE**

WHEN GMA 7 CALLED SUNSHINE Dizon for a meeting last week, she was hoping it was for a role in "Atlantica," a new fantaserye.

"It never occurred to me that they were calling me for 'Bakekang,'" she told INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday. "I started to cry, but they were tears of joy. It was too much at first. I never thought they would consider me. Of course, I've heard rumors that GMA 7 would be doing 'Bakekang.' But these rumors have been there forever."

Sunshine couldn't even tell her mother the big news, as network executives asked her to keep mum about it.

"I was dying to tell her, at least," she said. "I wanted to tell the whole world. But I made this promise. It was really weird."

Sunshine said she left the meeting with a smile on her face, but kept her silence even if the news had already been leaked to the press. Last Saturday, she finally told her mother, but only because she had to try on the prosthetics for the role.

Bakekang is the heroine in a Carlo J. Caparas *komiks* novel, which was made into a movie in the 1980s with Nora Aunor in the title role.

"People told me I could pull this through," said Sunshine, who admitted to being apprehensive about playing the role. "I've never been a mother so I don't know what it's like being one."

Last week, Sunshine was handed the script written by RJ Nuevas and Suzette Doctolero for the first week's taping.

"It was beautifully written. It made me understand who Bakekang was," said Sunshine, admitting she knew very little about the character. "All I knew was that it was a story in the *komiks* and Nora Aunor made the movie. I asked for a copy of the movie. Unfortunately, the producer no longer had any. I was told that the prints were burned during a fire. The writers told me that it was probably better if I didn't see the movie, so I could do my own version."

Getting into the character would be a challenge for the 23-year-old actress.

"At first, you won't really understand her angst, her pain, her drive and why she wanted to fight back," said Sunshine. "I only began to understand her after I read the script a few times. She's only human and wanted so many things for herself. But she was ugly, and that got in the way. You can't blame her for being angry and wanting to get back at everybody through her beautiful daughter."

Sunshine said the script was written in a way that people who have never heard of Bakekang would understand the complexities of her behavior.

"In a way, you would hate her, but you would also love her," said Sunshine. "You would also probably find little Bakekangs inside you. Sometimes, the Bakekangs inside us are even bigger than the character, we only refuse to admit it."

That she would be transformed into an ugly girl, and eventually into an old woman doesn't bother Sunshine, who's had her share of acting awards for television.

### Stretching limits

"I'm the type of actor who loves doing different kinds of roles," she said. "As much as possible, I'd like to stretch my limits. I don't want people to see me wearing prosthetics. I want people to see Bakekang, and not me playing Bakekang.

"I don't mind that the role calls for me to have children who are about my real age. It's a character, and characters like this one only come up once in a lifetime. I am lucky that I am able to do it after Ate Guy. Some things never come back. This one has, and I'm just eager to grab the opportunity. And if I'm able to convince the audience that I am a Bakekang, that I am ugly, then that would be a great thing for me."

**PUPIL**

**HALE**

# And the big winner is ...

From page D1

with jeans and sneakers. The family ties theme extended to poking fun at prime time TV, with a number of local MTV alumni and assorted showbiz personalities spoofing telenovela characters on several video clips.

KC Montero was a revelation. His hosting chores were spiced with rollicking stand-up comedy acts (playing a hot Latin lover and trash-talking American), prompting an amused MiG Ayesa to quip: "What have you been smoking lately, man?"

The event had a cosmopolitan air with the attendance of INXS, whose members presented the Favorite Rock Video award to Pupil for "Nasaan Ka?" Earlier, INXS itself was bestowed the MTV Inspiration Award for having made music with impact for almost three decades.

MTV VJ alumnus Francis M was another recipient of a special citation, the MTV Generations Award, for having been an enduring presence with albums and videos that bridged the local hip hop and rock scene. Francis was moved enough to jam with the intense Dicta License in a tribute number.

Ryan Cayabyab was spotted nodding his head to the grooves laid out by guest performer Up Dharma Down, nominated twice in a single category but failed to win.

Sandwich relished everything by being runaway winners—bagging the Best Editing, Production Design, Director (Marie Jamora) and Video of the Year awards for the song "Sugod."

In hindsight, it's not so much the winners that mattered but the character and spirit of this event that MTV Pilipinas handled with aplomb, even as a few technical glitches caused the program flow to stall and tested the ad-libbing skills of Marc Abaya and Cindy Kurleto.

The script had wit and excellence written all over its phrases and description of musical terms. At one point, award presenters Diether Ocampo and Kristine Hermosa had a good laugh as they emphasized "marriage" in the spiel that described how Up Dharma Down has successfully combined eclectic genres in its experimental style.

As Sandwich front man Raimund Marasigan revelled in victory and glided on stage with custom-made bat wings while singing the finale number "Sugod," it was apparent that MTV, in spite of the inanity it has been tolerating on the airwaves, has remained relevant by helping mould some of the most entertaining professional MCs in the Philippines—as Montero, Abaya, Kurleto and the rest have aptly demonstrated.

**The MTV Pilipinas Video Music 2006 Awardees:**

Favorite Pop Video – Hale for "Kung Wala Ka"

Best Animated Video – Mojofly, "Tumatakbo"

Favorite Hip Hop/R&B Video – April, "Stay Real"

Favorite Rock Video – Pupil, "Nasaan Ka?"

SMART Texters' Choice Hitmaker of the Year Award – Cueshe

Favorite Indie Video – Mojofly, "Tumatakbo"

Favorite International Video – Green Day, "Wake Me Up When September Ends"

Best Director – Marie Jamora, "Sugod" by Sandwich

Best Production Design in a Video – Sandwich, "Sugod"

Best Editing in a Video – Sandwich, "Sugod"

Best Cinematography in a Video – Bamboo, "Much Has Been Said"

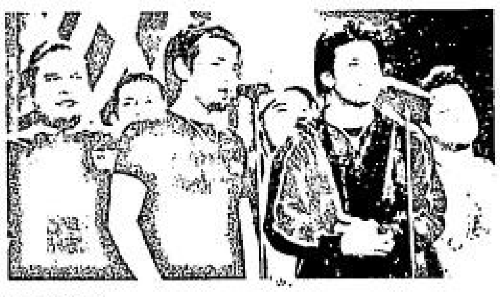
Favorite Group in a Video – Rivermaya, "Sunday Driving"

Favorite Male in a Video – Christian Bautista, "Invincible"

Favorite Female in a Video – Kitchie Nadal, "Fire"

Favorite New Artist in a Video – Sitti, "Para Sa Akin"

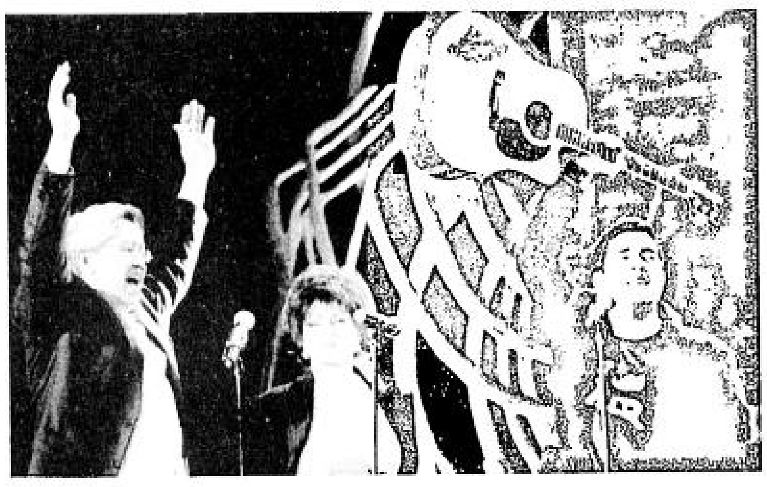
Video of the Year – Sandwich, "Sugod"



**CUESHE**

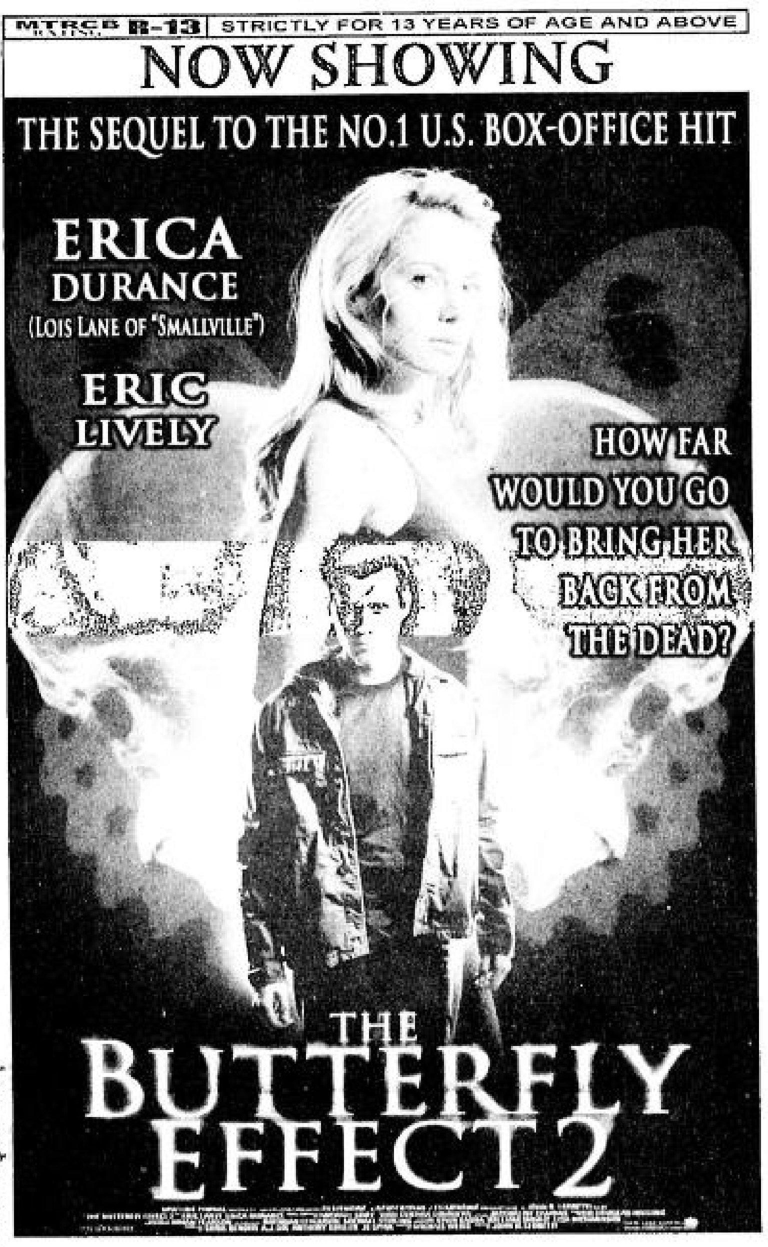
**CINDY** Kurleto

**FRANCIS M** with Dicta License (left)



**PHILIPPINE** Idol judges Ryan Cayabyab, Pilita Corrales and Francis M

**PRESENTERS** Diether Ocampo and Kristine Hermosa



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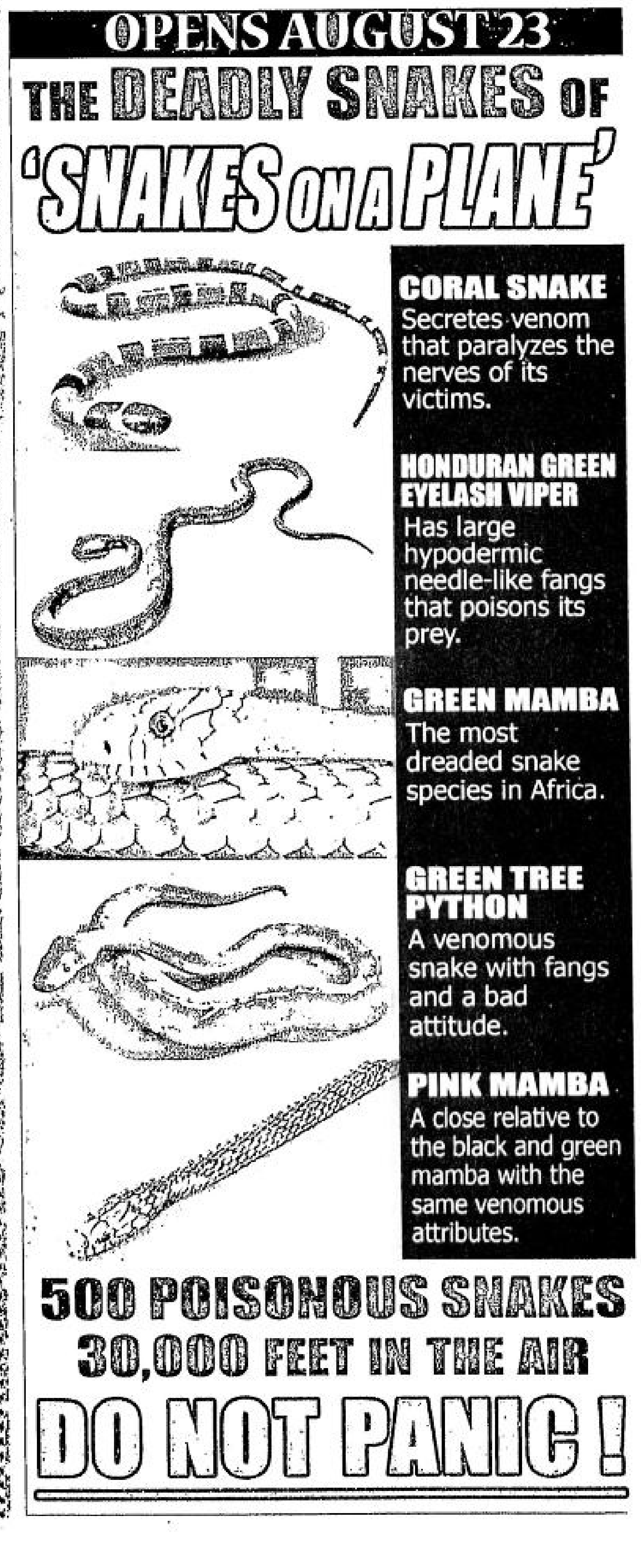

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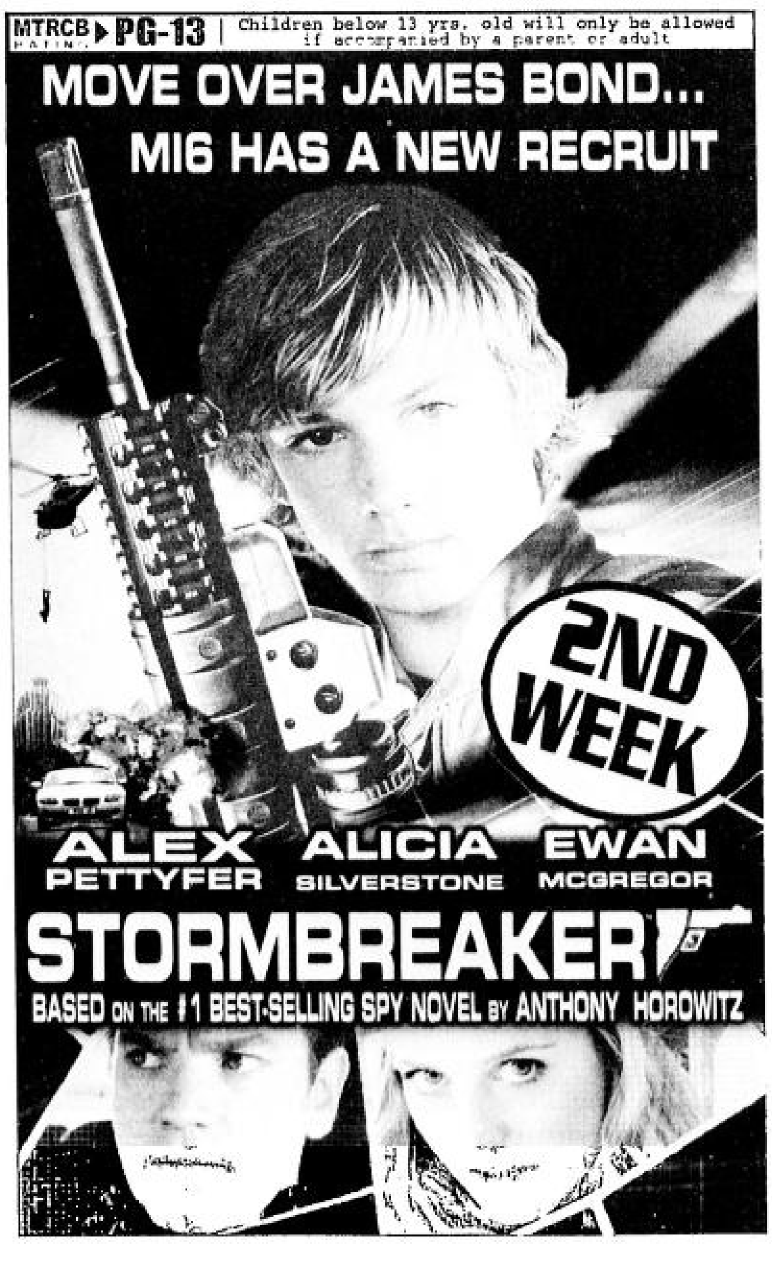

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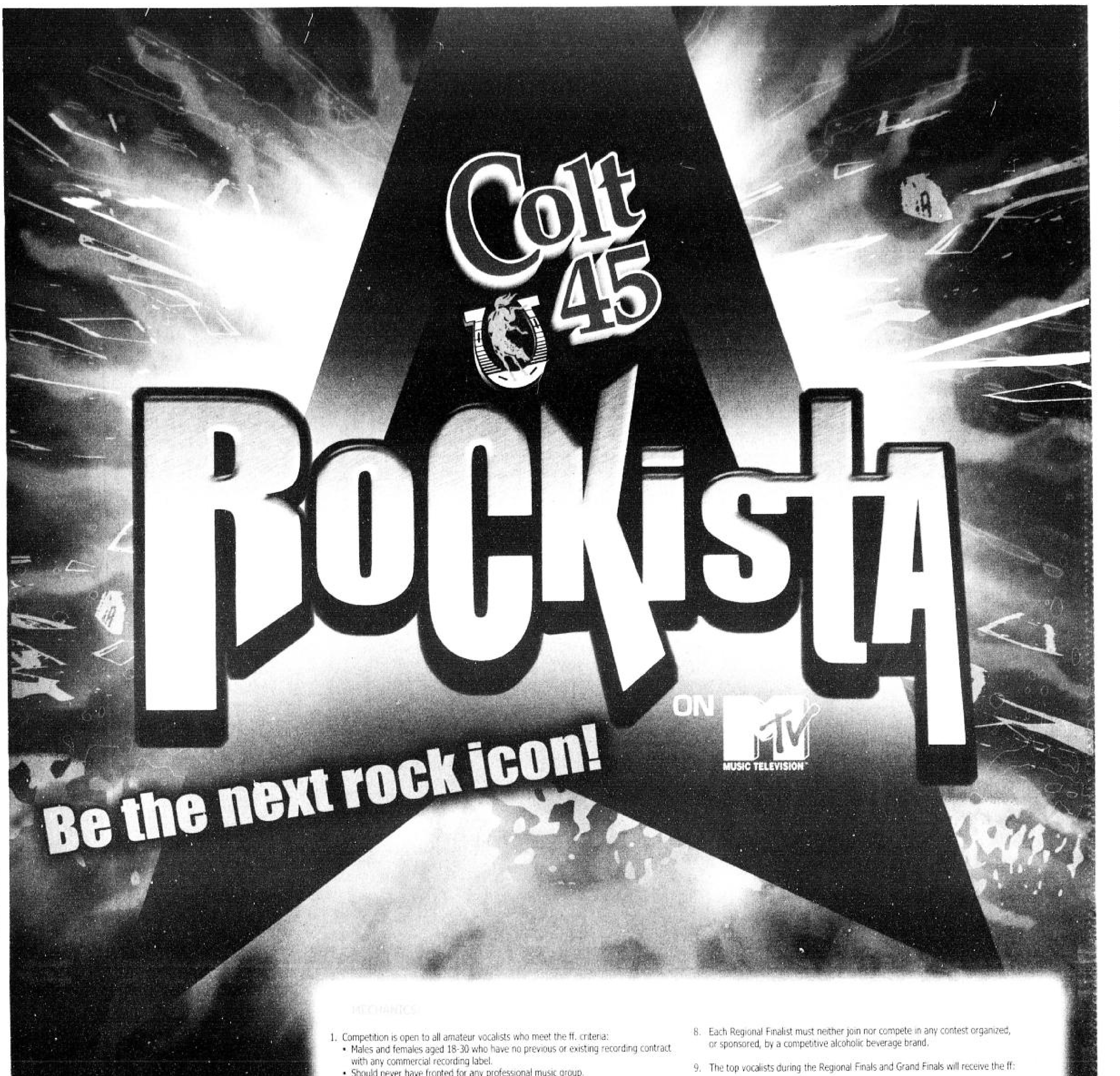

MECHANICS:

1. Competition is open to all amateur vocalists who meet the ff. criteria:
   - Males and females aged 18-30 who have no previous or existing recording contract with any commercial recording label.
   - Should never have fronted for any professional music group.
   - Must be a Filipino citizen or has been a resident of the Philippines for the last 24 months.
2. All contestants must submit the ff. requirements:
   - Clearly recorded demo tape or CD containing one (1) English/Foreign cover song and one (1) cover song by Bamboo the Band. Total recording time should not exceed 10 minutes.
   - All cassettes and CDs must be properly labeled with the vocalist's name and titles of each song.
   - Bio-data, picture, and a brief description of musical background.
   - Enclose the above-stated requirements in an envelope together with six (6) crowns of Colt 45. Seal and indicate on the envelope the contestant's name and contact details (address, phone no/s.).
3. Submit entries to the nearest RGMA radio station. RGMA will call-in contestants to audition.
4. Demo tapes or CDs of eligible vocalists will be screened per area to qualify for the Regional Finals. Screening will be held at RGMA-Manila.
5. Fifteen (15) vocalists will be notified by their respective RGMA stations to compete in the elimination rounds in their respective areas. Top ten (10) vocalists will be chosen from each of the elimination rounds to compete in each Regional Final.
6. The top vocalist from each Regional Final will represent their region and will move on to compete in a televised show, **Colt 45 Rockista on MTV**, which will run for 7 episodes.
7. During the 7-episode show, the 10 Regional Finalists will be asked to perform songs from a music library organized by the show producers. Two (2) finalists will be eliminated per episode until a grand winner and a runner-up is chosen.
8. Each Regional Finalist must neither join nor compete in any contest organized, or sponsored, by a competitive alcoholic beverage brand.
9. The top vocalists during the Regional Finals and Grand Finals will receive the ff:

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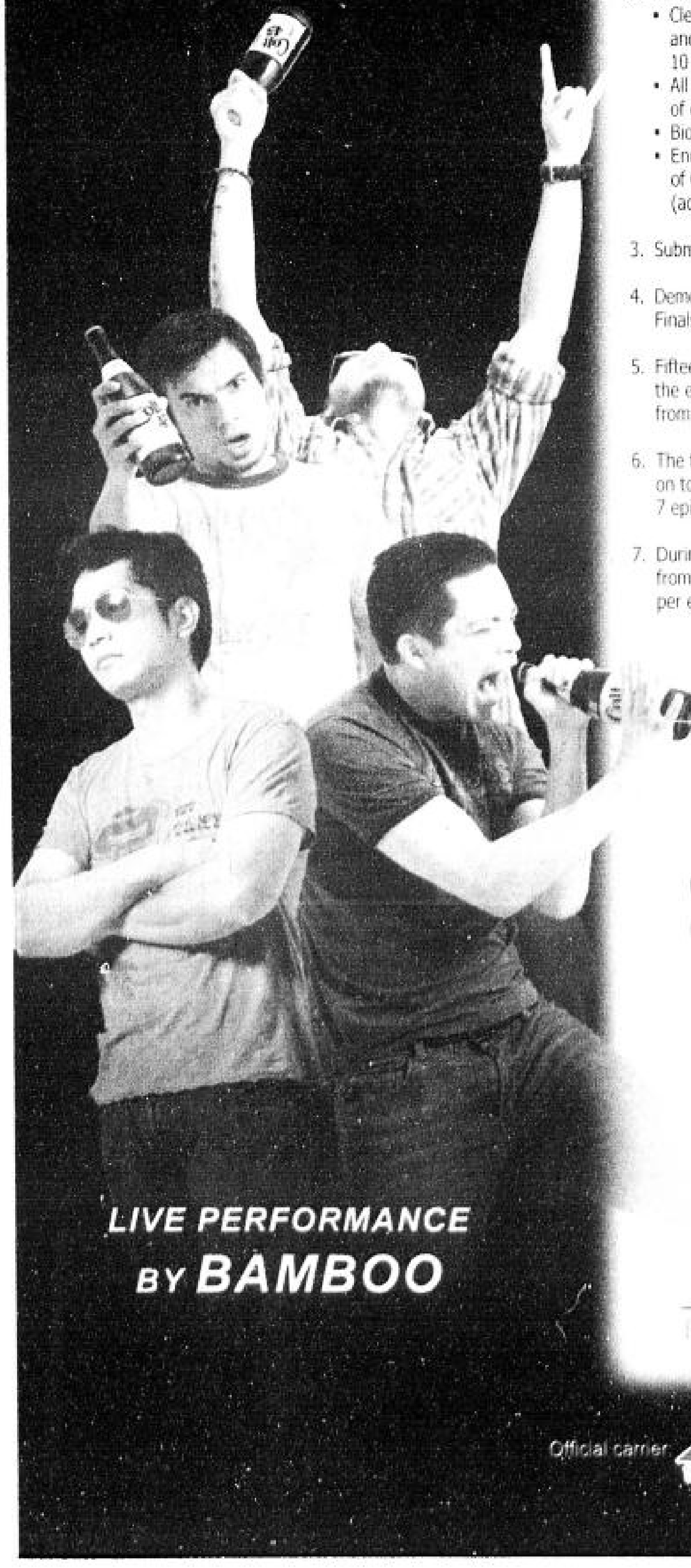
| Consolation Prize | – | P15,000 tax-free for every non-winning finalist |

10. During the 1-year contract period, the Grand Finals winner must NOT endorse a competitive alcoholic beverage brand. Likewise, they must NOT appear in any promotional material (TV, radio, print) of – nor perform in any event sponsored or organized by – a competitive alcoholic beverage brand.
11. Colt 45 (or its media partner) will provide transportation and accommodations for all Regional Finalists during the seven (7) episode run of **Colt 45 Rockista on MTV**.
12. All demo tapes and subsequent performances during the auditions/competition automatically become Colt 45 property and shall be used to promote the event in any way deemed necessary by the brand and event organizers.
13. Colt 45 reserves the right to disqualify any participant with just cause.
14. Employees of Asia Brewery Inc., its agencies, promo and media suppliers, and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the competition.



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| Cebu | Central/Eastern Visayas | Aug.19 | Aug. 26 | Sept. 2 |
| CDO | North/Western Mindanao | Aug. 26 | Sept. 2 | Sept. 9 |
| Butuan | North/Eastern Mindanao | Aug. 26 | Sept. 2 | Sept. 10 |
| Lucena | South Luzon | Sept. 8 | Sept. 15 | Sept. 22 |
| Dumaguete | Central/Western Visayas | Sept. 9 | Sept. 16 | Sept. 23 |
| Davao | South Mindanao | Sept. 15 | Sept. 22 | Sept. 29 |
| Bacolod | Western Visayas | Sept. 22 | Sept. 29 | Oct. 6 |
| Urdaneta, Pangasinan | North/Central Luzon | Sept. 29 | Oct. 6 | Oct. 13 |
| Manila | GMA/South Luzon | Sept. 29 | Oct. 7 | Oct. 14 |

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| CLICK<br>PG13<br>1:20,3:30,5:40,<br>7:50,10:00 | MORTUARY<br>R13<br>1:25,3:35,5:45,<br>7:55,10:05 | MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND<br>R13<br>1:35,3:45,5:55,<br>8:05,10:15 |

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| AUG. 17,18,24,25 & 31 | GARY V | 8:00PM |
| AUG. 26 , 2006 | NONOY ZUNIGA | 8:00PM |

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| | | |
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| EVERY WEDNESDAY | CERRUDO ... CLASSICO | 8:00PM |
| AUG. 19 , 2006 | PRIME COUNSEL | 9:00PM |
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# Actor 'in the basem

## DOLLYWOOD

*Dolly Ann Carvajal*

MERYLL SORIANO SHRUGS OFF RUMORS that her boyfriend **Bernard Palanca** is now undergoing rehab. He is the subject of the blind item referred to as the actor "in the basement." According to Meryll, Bernard is in the States. Not in a state of drug-induced hallucination?

### Prima donna

An insider from Viva Films' "Reyna" laments over **Keanna Reeves'** prima donna ways. "She's the cause of delay, with all her quirks in wearing costumes. She even makes big stars wait because she takes a dinner break for three hours. And most of her scenes have to be reshot because her acting is so bland. She even complains about working everyday instead of counting her blessings." It's sad that Keanna has forgotten the days when she had no money to count.

BERNARD Palanca

KEANNA Reeves

### Moving 'Eternity'

The play date of Regal Entertainment's romantic *obra maestra* "Eternity" has been moved to Sept. 6. Nope, it's not because they are wary of a head-on collision with Star Cinema's "You Are the One." *Direk* **Mark Reyes** just wants to make sure that every scene is meticulously executed. "We treated the past darker than the present time. But since the two time periods are intertwined, it was a challenge for us to make everything look seamless."

Based on the breathtaking trailer, you'll feel like you're watching two movies. Just like its theme which is reincarnation, the film is something you'd want to watch all over again, *Direk* assures. After all, we all go through different "periods" in our love life in one lifetime. But for the incurable romantic like *moi*, we can never put a period when it comes to love.

### Jealous type

Even if **Martin Nievera** has already apologized for the unsavory remarks he blurted out about his ex-wife **Pops'** FHM sexy pictorial, his reaction only goes to show that he still feels for her. I remember when they were still together, Pipay would often tell me that Mart is really the jealous type. He didn't want her to wear short skirts or stand too close to an ex-BF while singing a duet. Maybe Martin is forgetting that even if Pops remains to be the mother of his two sons, she is her own woman now.

### Next Aga?

**Aga Muhlach**'s equally gorgeous dad Cheng told me that "Morning" celebrated birthday quietly with close fri and family in his Batangas farm Saturday. Tito Cheng was the ture of a doting father to his son **Andrew** who's part of the of "Super Inggo." Will he be next Aga? "He's just as *kulit* as when he was young. I'm proud he went through auditions and the part without Aga's help." Ta really runs in their blood.

### Superheroes

I cornered **Zanjoe Marudo** and **Derek Ramsey** to ask if they were ready to be compared to **Richard Gutierrez** who plays Captain Barbell since they will be portraying Machete and Super Islaw in ABS-CBN's much awaited *telefantasya* "Super Inggo." Says Zanjoe: "Just to be compared to him is already an honor for me." Derek is blasé about it. "There was so much fuss about his costume. It's like his muscles are just drawing on it. I'm not bothered by who looks better in costume. Acting *na lang ang labanan!*" These hero hunks need no costumes to fight evil forces because their looks alone can kill.

### Mother's treat

It's been 10 years since Mother **Lily Monteverde** opened the Imperial Palace Suites. It's one of QC's most popular business and leisure hotels. For its 10th anniversary, gift checks and discounts will be given to guests this August. Celebration starts on Aug. 18 with a cocktail party to be hosted by **Iza Calzado** and **Dennis Trillo**. Mother's celebri-

# Surviving suffering and sordid secrets

**By Oliver M. Pulumbarit**
*Contributor*

ASIDE FROM THE INHERENT RICH-VERSUS-poor and coming-of-age trappings of the Griffin Dunne-directed drama "Fierce People," some serious topics are discussed, such as drug abuse, blackmail and sexual assault. Some of them come almost unannounced later, which is a sign of a working narrative ability, at least in this case.

But it's hard to really feel emotionally involved with the film, except for a few important bonding situations between a 16-year-old, Finn (Anton Yelchin) and the story's older—though not necessarily wiser—characters. The film is not without its lessons, however, and they're not forcibly crammed down our throats.

Finn has an uneasy relationship with his mother, Liz (Diane Lane), a masseuse, single mom and recovering junkie and alcoholic. Atoning for her weaknesses, she calls up, and is quickly employed by an old friend, New Jersey tycoon Ogden Osbourne (Donald Sutherland), who relocates them to his posh estate for the summer. Finn seems to be following his anthropologist father's footsteps, and attempts to study and understand this new environment, just as his dad previously documented a primitive tribe's culture and rituals.

The transition is easier than either Finn or Liz expected. The Osbourne grandkids, wily stud Bryce (Chris Evans) and sweet, attentive Maya (Kristen Stewart), really like the boy, and Ogden is respectful of him and Liz's space. Soon enough, Finn gets a sampling of privilege and its excesses, until someone makes it known—in the harshest way possible—that they're not welcome there at all.

> During one of Finn's hazy d trips, a chieftain from the South American tribe that l father studied offers sage advice—in Filipino

The acting in "Fierce People" is generally good, and in specific instances, really moving, lil aforementioned bonding scenes. Perhaps t crucial one is the part where Liz, beside his den son, tearfully realizes that moving the huge mistake after all. Yelchin, meanwhile, lation. His acting and raspy voice narration pressive, even when he had to do a terribly scene where his anguished character crie heavens while yanking grass off the ground

Understandably, the initially light story unapologetically grim, but fleeting details ven into the already-complicated script— pected teen pregnancy, which is not spoken after it's announced. And it gets quite dis when, during one of Finn's hazy drug trips, tain from the South American tribe that hi studied offers sage advice—in Filipino.

"Fierce People" only accurately points to o savage character in particular, since the ot cluding the once-innocent young protagon many redeeming qualities despite their in tions. It feels a little tiring, though, after son parent deceptions finally get resolved. Once have been learned, and Finn finally decla "we are the sum of all the people we've ev it's easy for us to exhale, forget their trau move on.

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# ent’

ty “babies” are all expected to come in full force.

### Readers’ corner

I’m writing about the WCOPA (World Championships of Performing Arts) to let you know that it may be organized by so-called “Hollywood promoters,” but legitimate insiders know it’s no big deal here. Winning an award for a contest in which you have to pay a lot for in order to get in is outrageous. No wonder delegates are not fully screened and it’s open to anybody who can pay the registration fee amounting to thousands of dollars. Singing, acting contests, etc. are a dime a dozen here in LA but it’s not even reported in newspapers. But that doesn’t mean we are not proud of the Pinoy talents who won.—**Aileen Ramirez**, aramirezus@yahoo.com

### Showgirl

Tomorrow at the Big Dome, **Vina Morales** will take the next bold step in her career via a major solo concert called “Showgirl.” She will do exciting song and dance numbers that will show everyone why she is dubbed “the ultimate performer.” Joining her are **Ogie Alcasid, Jay-R, Shaina Magdayao** and **Ai-Ai de las Alas**. For tickets, call 911-5555.

*For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com*

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
MTRCB R-13
12 40, 3 00, 5 20, 7.40, 10:00

2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
MTRCB PG-13
2.15, 4 50, 7 25, 10 00

3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
MTRCB R-13
2 15, 4 50, 7.25, 10.00

4 CLICK
MTRCB PG-13
12.00, 2.30, 5 00, 7 30, 10.00

PREMIERE THEATRE
ANT BULLY
MTRCB GP
1 40, 3 45 7.55
STORMBREAKER
MTRCB PG-13
5 50 10 00

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1 AMERICAN DREAMZ
12:50, 3:25, 6:00, 8:35, 11:05
PG-13

2 CLICK
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05
PG-13

3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
R-13

4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12:45, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:00

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MORTUARY
12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30
ANT BULLY 12:50 / 2:50 / 4:50
MIAMI VICE 6.50 / 9:30
AMERICAN DREAMZ
2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
KUBRADOR
2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
CLICK
12:25 / 2:45 / 5:05 / 7:25 / 9:45
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND
12:35 / 2:55 / 5:15 / 7:35 / 9:55
OH MY GHOST
1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
SUKOB
2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND
2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20

ALIMALL 5
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
SUKOB
1.10 / 3.30 / 5:50 / 8 10
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND
12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6.10 / 8:30
OH MY GHOST
11:55 / 2:05 4:15 / 6:25 / 8 35
BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12:15 / 3:05 / 5:55 / 8:45
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| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | 1 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 | 2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND | 3 MORTUARY | 4 OH MY GHOST! |
| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 CLICK | 2 FREEDOMLAND | 3 THX AMERICAN DREAMZ<br>1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 KUBRADOR | 5 SUKOB | 6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND | 7 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | 1 CLICK | 2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND | | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX AMERICAN DREAMZ<br>2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND<br>2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | | |
| | 3 FREEDOMLAND<br>2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 MIAMI VICE<br>2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 CLICK<br>2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:20, 11:00<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THX MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND | 2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 | | |
| | 3 CLICK | 4 OH MY GHOST! | 5 STORMBREAKER | |
| ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND | 2 MIAMI VICE | 3 WOLFCREEK | 4 OH MY GHOST! |
| M2 MARKET! MARKET! | 1 OH MY GHOST! | 2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 | | |
| | 3 KUBRADOR | 4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND | 5 MIAMI VICE | |

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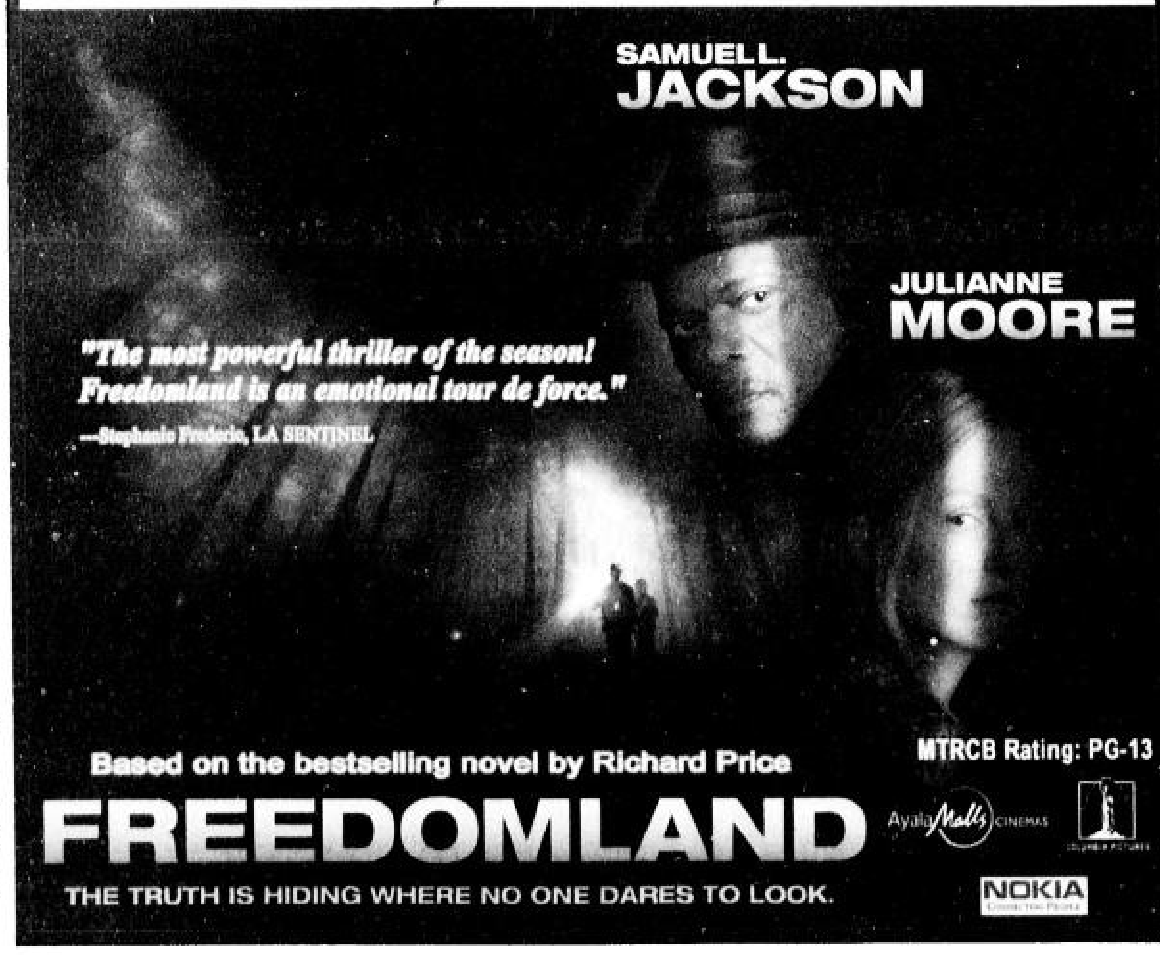
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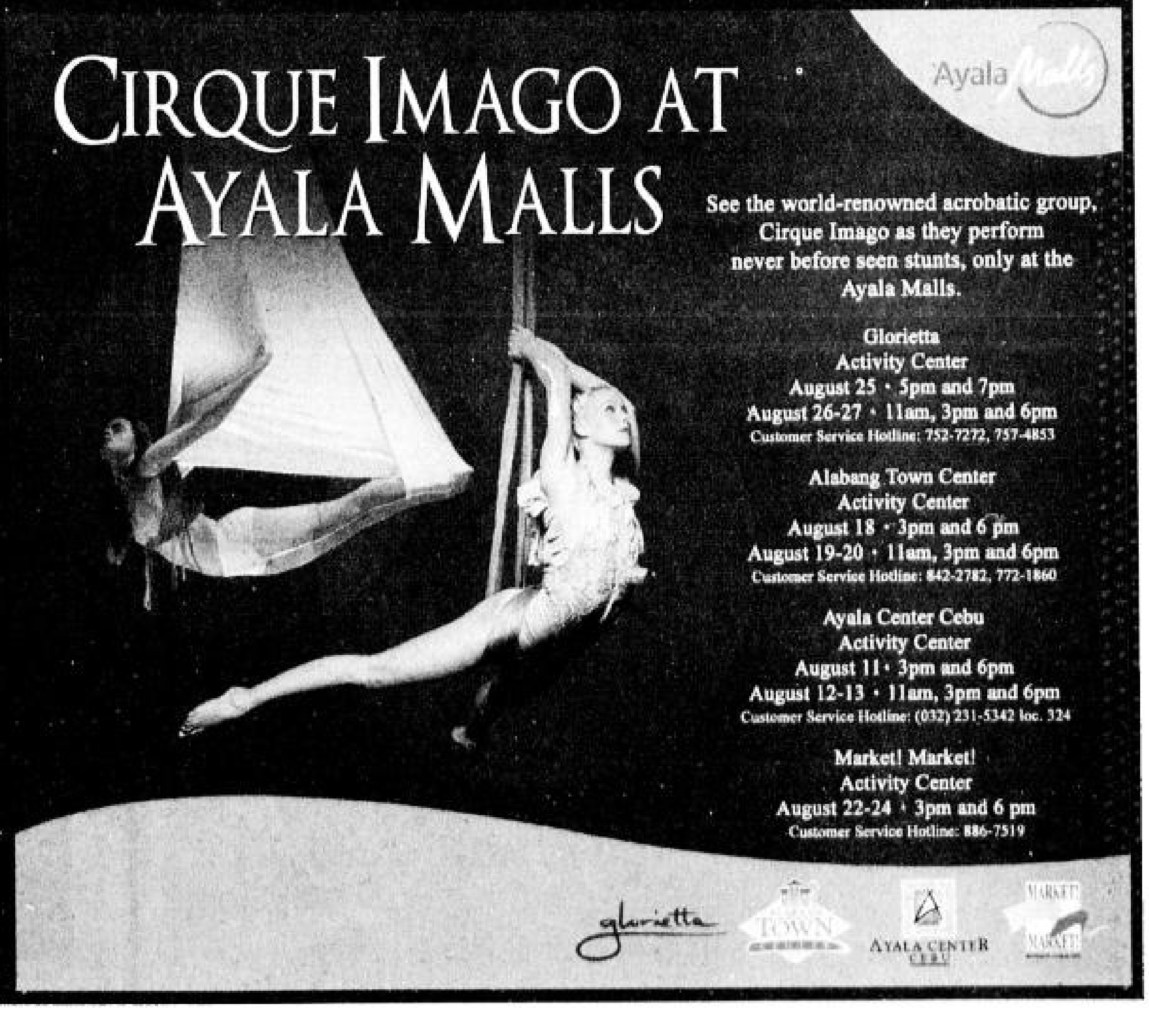

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1 MIAMI VICE • THX
2 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 MORTUARY
5 OH MY GHOST
6 AMERICAN DREAMZ
7 CLICK
8 STORMBREAKER
9 SUKOB
10 KUBRADOR

### ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 OH MY GHOST
2 SUKOB
3 MORTUARY
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 CLICK

### METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
2 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 STORMBREAKER
4 SUKOB
5 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
6 MORTUARY
7 CLICK
8 OH MY GHOST

### NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 SUKOB
2 MORTUARY
3 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 OH MY GHOST

### CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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2 CLICK
3 MIAMI VICE
4 SUKOB

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2 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

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2 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 STORMBREAKER
4 SUKOB

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2 THE BREAK-UP
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST
5 CLICK
6 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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3 JUST MY LUCK
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5 SUKOB
6 THE BREAK-UP

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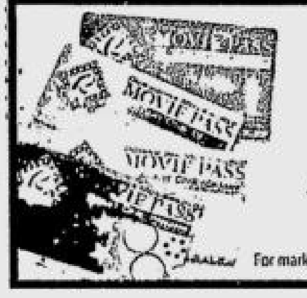
1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK



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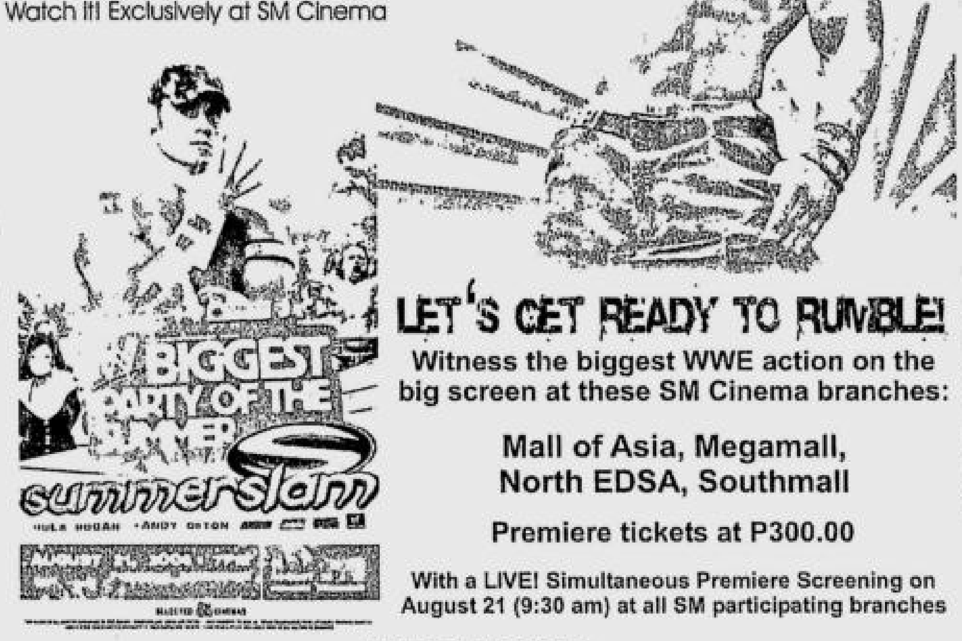

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2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4
5 SUKOB
6 KUBRADOR

PREMIERE CINEMA
OH MY GHOST
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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CINEMA 1
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
3 CLICK
4 STORMBREAKER
5 SUKOB
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 MIAMI VICE
8 OH MY GHOST
9 KUBRADOR
10 MORTUARY
11 CLICK
12 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

**SM MEGACINEMA** 633-1901

1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 CLICK
5 MIAMI VICE
6 STORMBREAKER
7 MORTUARY
8 KUBRADOR
9 OH MY GHOST
10 SUKOB
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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1 MORTUARY
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 LADY IN THE WATER
4 MIAMI VICE
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
9 SUKOB
10 STORMBREAKER
11 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12 FIERCE CREATURE

**SM CITY STA. MESA** 716-1416

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 OH MY GHOST
5 SUKOB
6 MORTUARY
7 MIAMI VICE
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
9 AMERICAN DREAMZ
10 STORMBREAKER

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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 CLICK
4 MORTUARY
5 SUKOB
6 OH MY GHOST

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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
3 SUKOB
4 MORTUARY
5 CLICK
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 STORMBREAKER
8 OH MY GHOST
9 KUBRADOR

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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

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1 MORTUARY
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 STORMBREAKER
4 CLICK
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 KUBRADOR
8 AMERICAN DREAMZ
9 SUKOB
10 MIAMI VICE
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 OH MY GHOST

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1 MIAMI VICE
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

**SM VALENZUELA** 293-3917

1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST

**SM CITY SUCAT** 829-4975

1 OH MY GHOST
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

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2 OH MY GHOST
3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

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1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY

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1 STORMBREAKER
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SUKOB
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
6 OH MY GHOST
7 CLICK
8 FIERCE CFREATURE

**SM CITY BATANGAS** 885-6401-04

1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 STORMBREAKER
4 SUKOB

**SM CITY LUCENA** (042)7108977-80

1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY
3 CLICK
4 OH MY GHOSTZ

**SM CITY CLARK** (045)625-5844-45

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 CLICK
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 OH MY GHOST
6 SUKOB

**SM CITY PAMPANGA** (045)9637681-85

1 SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 STORMBREAKER
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 OH MY GHOST

**SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO** (046)474-3160

1 OH MY GHOST
2 STORMBREAKER
3 ANT BULLY
4 CLICK

**SM CITY STA. ROSA** (049)5341265-66

1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 SUKOB

### VISAYAS MINDANAO

**SM CITY CEBU** (032)231-3876

1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 MIAMI VICE
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 OH MY GHOST
7 SUKOB
8 MIAMI VICE

**SM CITY ILOILO** (033)3209422

1 THE BREAK-UP
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 TAMARA
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 RESERVED
8 JUST MY LUCK

**SM CITY DAVAO** (082)2976998

1 MIAMI VICE
2 SUKOB
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 OH MY GHOST
5 CLICK
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

**SM CITY CAGAYAN** (088)859-2884

1 THE BREAK-UP
2 SUKOB
3 OH MY GHOST
4 CLICK

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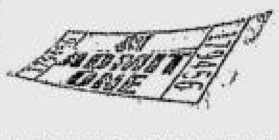

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---

KID FIT

### 'Noddy'

PLAYHOUSE DISNEY Channel airs "Make Way for Noddy," an animated pre-school series (inspired by the Noddy character in Toyland children's books written by Enid Blyton), everyday at 4 p.m. The series was designed to introduce gentle life-skill lessons to its young audience.

Noddy is a little wooden boy with the nodding head and jingly blue hat whose enthusiasm leads him to all sorts of tricky situations. The series aims to teach children learn the importance of patience, responsibility, teamwork, respect, confidence, family and friends.

Following "Make Way" is "Say it with Noddy"—short, interactive segments designed to introduce preschool children to new cultures and foreign languages. The segments show Noddy learning words or phrases in one of five different languages.

CHEER FACTOR

### Who is Sneezy?

NEW YORK—THREE quarters of Americans can correctly identify two of Snow White's seven dwarfs while only a quarter can name two Supreme Court Justices, according to a poll on pop culture released this week.

According to the poll by Zogby International, commissioned by the makers of a new online game on pop culture called "Gold Rush," 57 percent of Americans could identify J.K. Rowling's fictional boy wizard Harry Potter, while only 50 percent could name the British prime minister, Tony Blair.

The pollsters spoke to 1,213 people across the United States. The results had a margin of error of 2.9 percentage points.

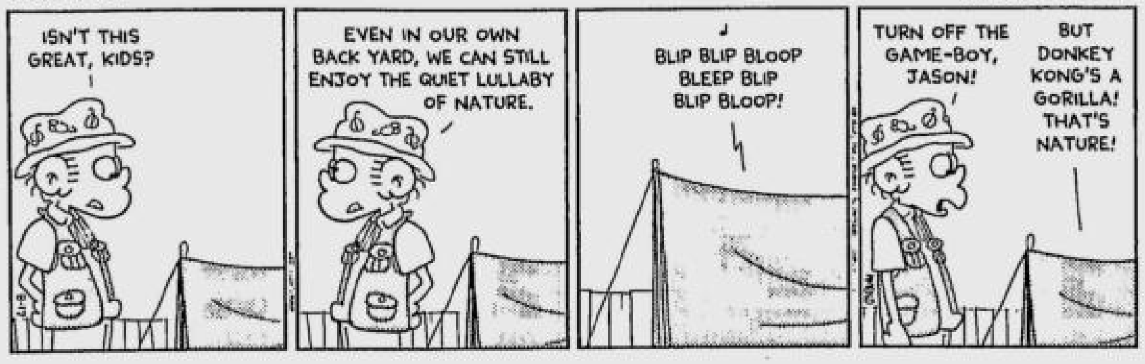
Over 60 percent of respondents were able to name Bart as Homer's son on the television show "The Simpsons," while only 20.5 percent were able to name one of the ancient Greek poet Homer's epic poems, "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey." Asked what planet Superman was from, 60 percent named the fictional planet Krypton, while only 37 percent knew that Mercury is the planet closest to the sun.

Respondents were far more familiar with the Three Stooges—Larry, Curly and Moe—than the three branches of the US government—judicial, executive and legislative. Seventy-four percent identified the former, 42 percent the latter.

*Reuters*

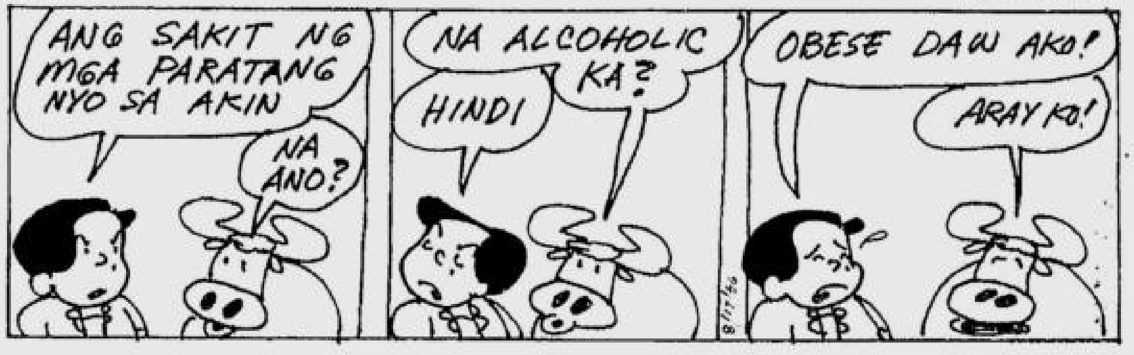
**FOXTROT**

BY BILL AMEND


ISN'T THIS GREAT, KIDS?
EVEN IN OUR OWN BACK YARD, WE CAN STILL ENJOY THE QUIET LULLABY OF NATURE.
BLIP BLIP BLOOP BLEEP BLIP BLIP BLOOP!
TURN OFF THE GAME-BOY, JASON!
BUT DONKEY KONG'S A GORILLA! THAT'S NATURE!

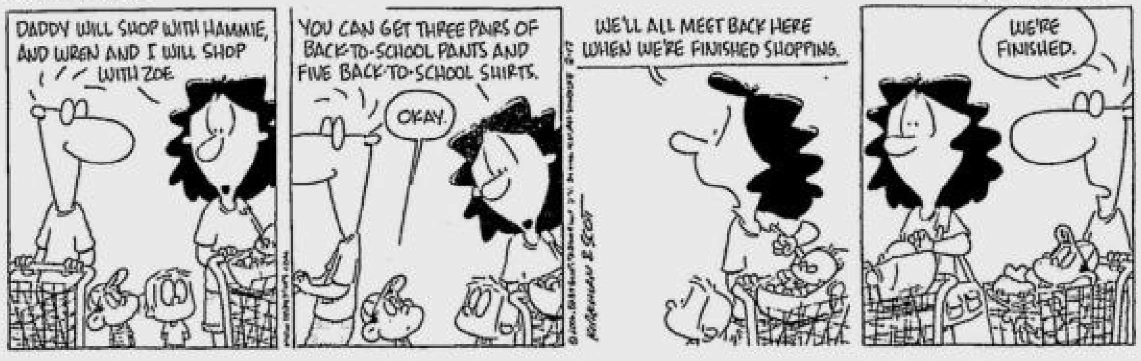
**A. LIPIN**

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG SAKIT NG MGA PARATANG NYO SA AKIN
NA ANO?
NA ALCOHOLIC KA?
HINDI
OBESE DAW AKO!
ARAY KO!

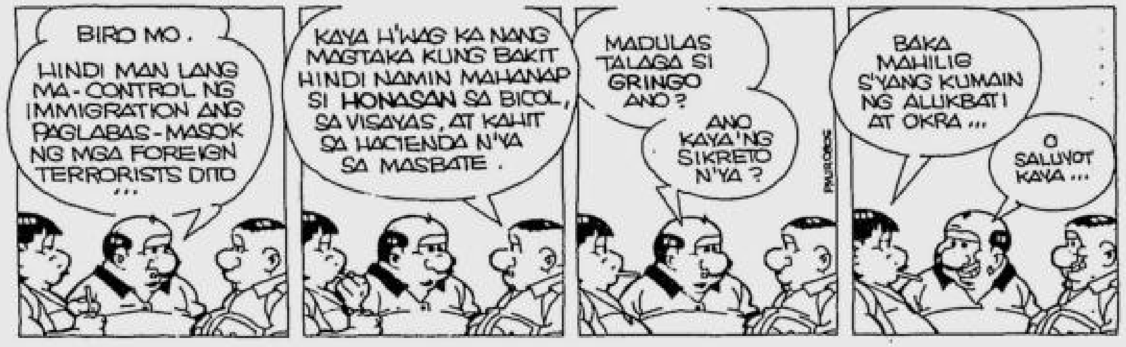
**BABY BLUES**

BY JERRY SCOTT


DADDY WILL SHOP WITH HAMMIE, AND WREN AND I WILL SHOP WITH ZOE.
YOU CAN GET THREE PAIRS OF BACK-TO-SCHOOL PANTS AND FIVE BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHIRTS.
OKAY.
WE'LL ALL MEET BACK HERE WHEN WE'RE FINISHED SHOPPING.
WE'RE FINISHED.

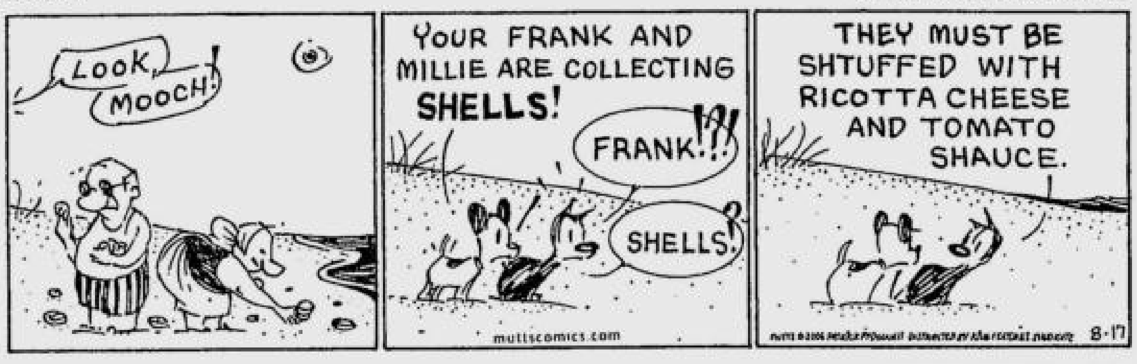
**PUGAD BABOY**

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BIRO MO. HINDI MAN LANG MA-CONTROL NG IMMIGRATION ANG PAGLABAS-MASOK NG MGA FOREIGN TERRORISTS DITO ...
KAYA H'WAG KA NANG MAGTAKA KUNG BAKIT HINDI NAMIN MAHANAP SI HONASAN SA BICOL, SA VISAYAS, AT KAHIT SA HACIENDA N'YA SA MASBATE.
MADULAS TALAGA SI GRINGO ANO?
ANO KAYA'NG SIKRETO N'YA?
BAKA MAHILIG S'YANG KUMAIN NG ALUKBATI AT OKRA ...
O SALUYOT KAYA ...

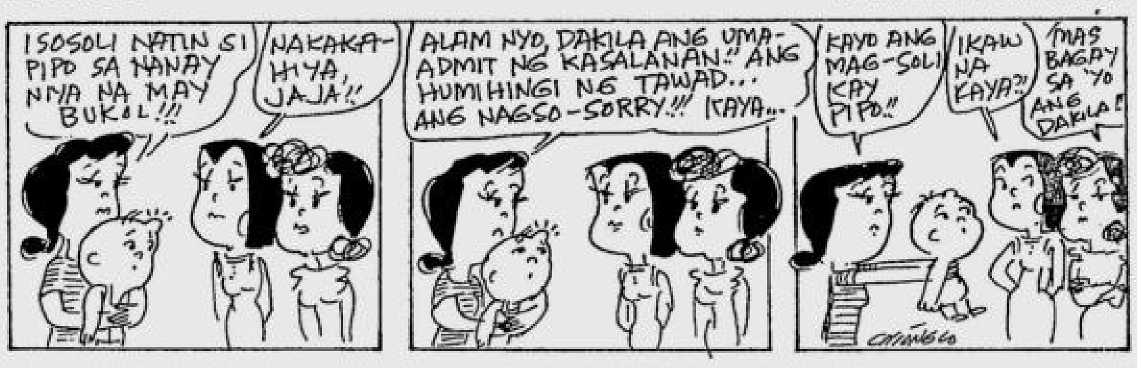
**MUTTS**

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LOOK, MOOCH!
YOUR FRANK AND MILLIE ARE COLLECTING SHELLS!
FRANK!?!
SHELLS?
THEY MUST BE SHTUFFED WITH RICOTTA CHEESE AND TOMATO SHAUCE.
muttscomics.com
8-17

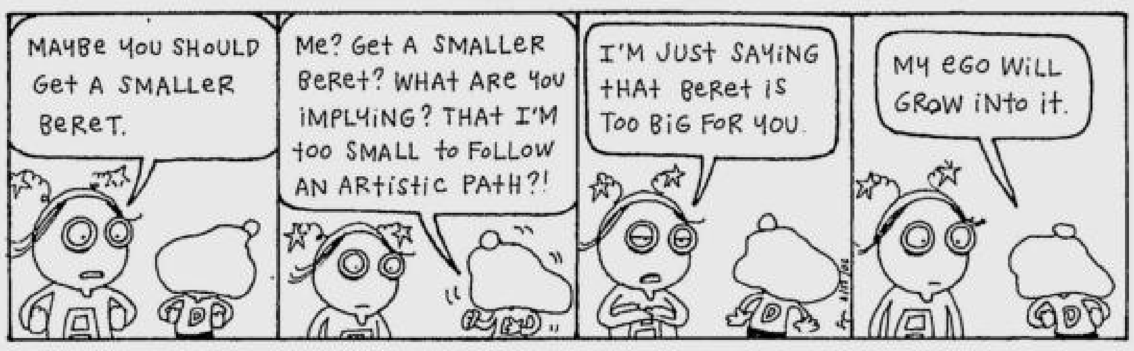
**LOVEKNOTS**

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ISOSOLI NATIN SI PIPO SA NANAY N'YA NA MAY BUKOL!!!
NAKAKAHIYA, JAJA!!
ALAM NYO, DAKILA ANG UMAADMIT NG KASALANAN!" ANG HUMIHINGI NG TAWAD... ANG NAGSO-SORRY!!! KAYA...
KAYO ANG MAG-SOLI KAY PIPO!!
IKAW NA KAYA?!
MAS BAGAY SA 'YO ANG DAKILA!
CHIONGLO

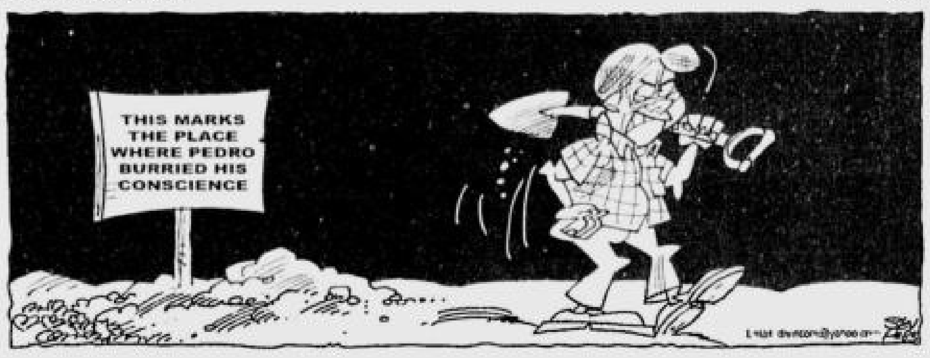
**ATOMO AND WEBOY**

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET A SMALLER BERET.
ME? GET A SMALLER BERET? WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING? THAT I'M TOO SMALL TO FOLLOW AN ARTISTIC PATH?!
I'M JUST SAYING THAT BERET IS TOO BIG FOR YOU.
MY EGO WILL GROW INTO IT.

**DIVINE COMEDY**

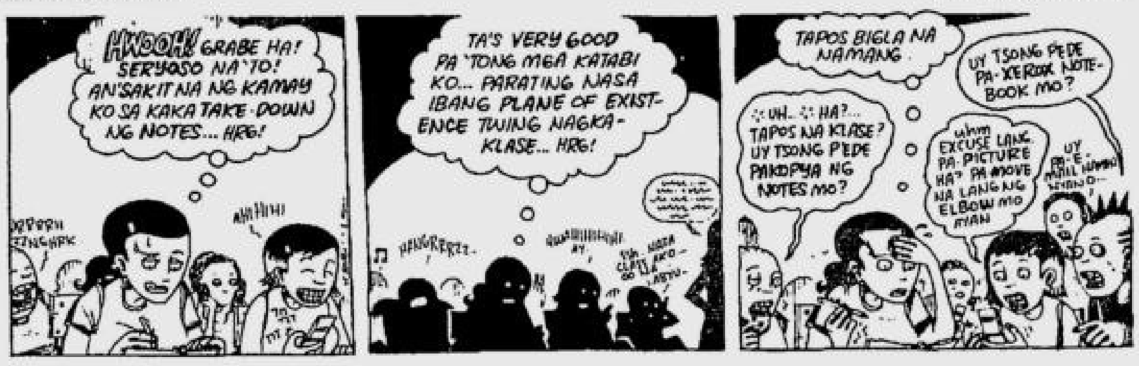
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THIS MARKS THE PLACE WHERE PEDRO BURRIED HIS CONSCIENCE

PAGKATAPOS IBINAON NI PEDRO SA LUPA ANG KANYANG KONSIYENSYA, PUMASOK NA SIYA SA PULITIKA

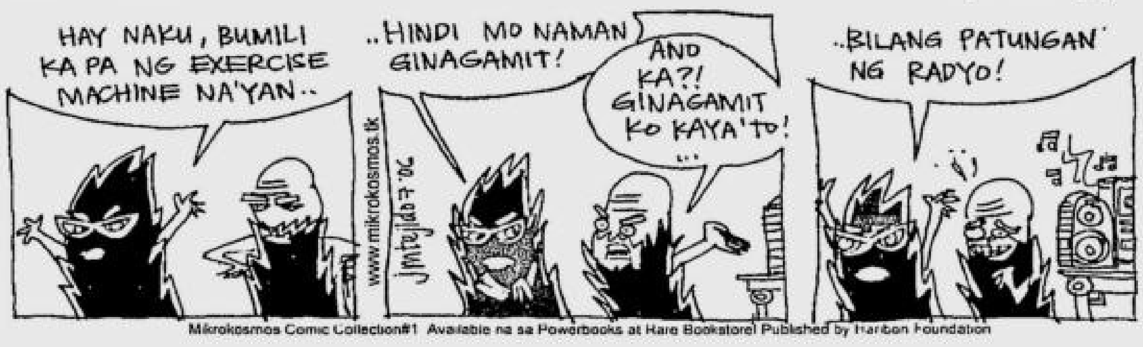
**KIKO MACHINE**

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOOH! GRABE HA! SERYOSO NA 'TO! AN'SAKIT NA NG KAMAY KO SA KAKA TAKE-DOWN NG NOTES... HRG!
AHIHIHI
TA'S VERY GOOD PA 'TONG MGA KATABI KO... PARATING NASA IBANG PLANE OF EXISTENCE TWING NAGKAKLASE... HRG!
TAPOS BIGLA NA NAMANG.
UY TSONG PEDE PA-XEROX NOTEBOOK MO?
UH.. HA?... TAPOS NA KLASE? UY TSONG PEDE PAKOPYA NG NOTES MO?
uhm EXCUSE LANG. PA-PICTURE HA? PA-MOVE NA LANG NG ELBOW MO IYAN

**MIKROKOSMOS**

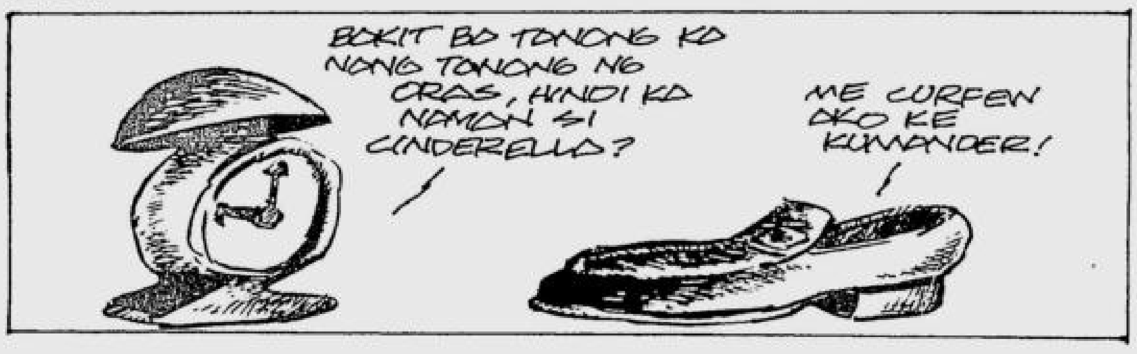
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAY NAKU, BUMILI KA PA NG EXERCISE MACHINE NA'YAN..
..HINDI MO NAMAN GINAGAMIT!
ANO KA?! GINAGAMIT KO KAYA'TO! ...
..BILANG PATUNGAN NG RADYO!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

Mikrokosmos Comic Collection#1 Available na sa Powerbooks at Rare Bookstore! Published by Haribon Foundation

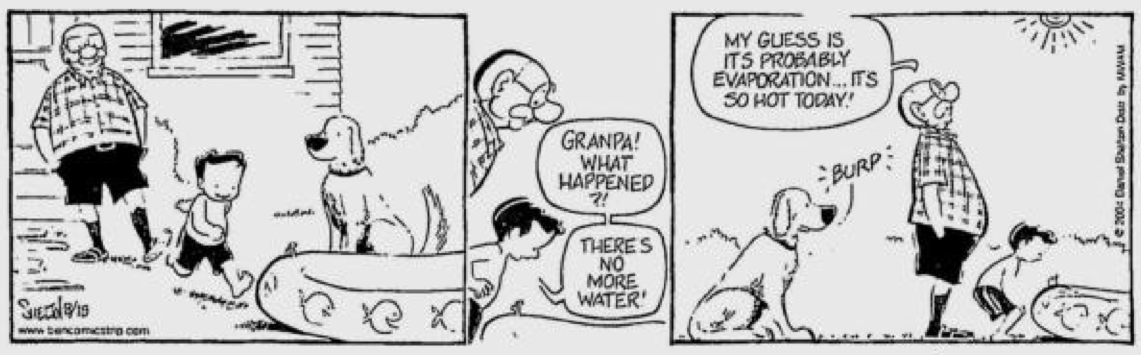
**TULDOK**

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

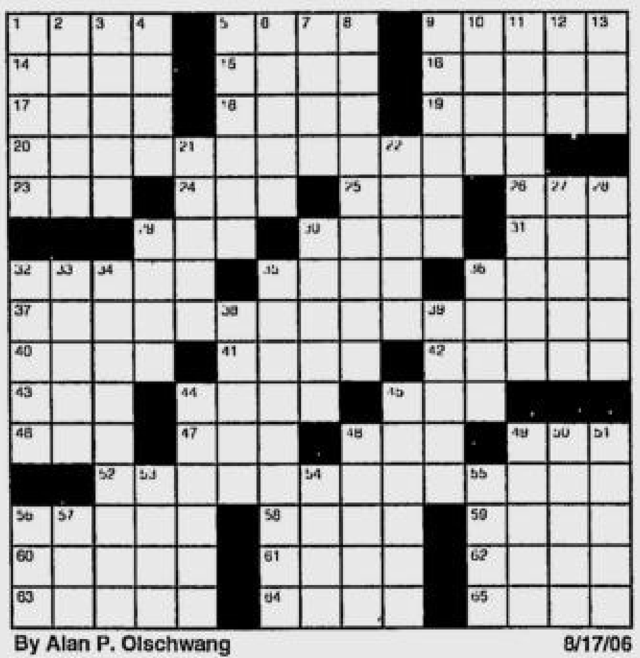

BAKIT BA TONONG KA NANG TONONG NG ORAS, HINDI KA NAMAN SI CINDERELLA?
ME CURFEW AKO KE KUMANDER!

**BEN**

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GRANPA! WHAT HAPPENED?!
THERE'S NO MORE WATER!
MY GUESS IS IT'S PROBABLY EVAPORATION... IT'S SO HOT TODAY!
BURP
www.bencomicstrip.com

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

8/17/06

**ACROSS**

1 Russian ruler
5 Plant part
9 Gives off
14 Provoke
15 Thus
16 Thugs
17 Rubberneck
18 Inert gas
19 Outer robes
20 Start of Evan Esar quote
23 Pig's place
24 __ Gatos, CA
25 '64 hit by Ronny & the Daytonas
26 Diminutive in Dundee
29 Aachen article
30 Math course
31 Faucet
32 Taint
35 Shrinking inland sea
36 Pouchlike structures
37 Part 2 of quote
40 Frenzied
41 Ripens
42 Toast toppers
43 Dream letters
44 Loan figs.
45 Simpson trial judge
46 Refrain syllable
47 Double DI
48 Colonial cuckoo
49 R.E. Lee's nation
52 End of quote
56 Serengeti stalkers
58 Contends
59 Bar in a tub
60 Sharp
61 Info from schedules
62 Pot sweetener
63 Monterrey money
64 __ City, FL
65 Hammerhead end

**DOWN**

1 Runs easily
2 Vision
3 Bowler's milieu
4 Virginia's dance?
5 Motion detector
6 Hank of hair
7 Ids' companions
8 Initials on handkerchiefs
9 Christmastime drink
10 State of mind
11 Ames school
12 Spike TV, formerly
13 Sound of a slow leak
21 Actress Verdugo
22 Functional
27 Rambo-like
28 Basilica features
29 Flat plate
30 Adjusts accurately
32 Agent 86
33 Circus employee
34 Aberrant
35 Wronged
36 D-Day town
38 Quick
39 Tag-player's shout
44 Entertains
45 Latin being
48 In front
49 Genetic duplicate
50 Use the rink
51 Quaking tree
53 Conscious of
54 Dove or Rudner
55 Quickly!
56 Once around the track
57 Drink cooler

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | S | T | ■ | D | A | L | E | ■ | T | R | A | M | P |
| A | N | T | I | ■ | I | D | O | L | ■ | R | A | D | A | R |
| S | N | U | G | ■ | E | D | G | E | ■ | U | N | A | G | I |
| T | E | N | E | T | S | ■ | A | M | I | E | ■ | R | I | M |
| E | X | T | R | A | I | N | N | I | N | G | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | P | R | Y | ■ | ■ | D | R | E | N | C | H |
| A | R | M | ■ | ■ | A | L | A | S | ■ | I | T | A | L | O |
| D | O | U | B | L | E | O | V | E | R | T | I | M | E | S |
| O | S | T | E | O | ■ | N | E | R | O | ■ | ■ | E | W | E |
| S | H | I | E | L | D | ■ | ■ | I | O | U | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | P | L | A | Y | O | F | F | G | A | M | E | S |
| I | S | R | ■ | Y | S | E | R | ■ | T | H | R | O | A | T |
| S | L | A | N | G | ■ | A | F | R | O | ■ | O | R | G | Y |
| I | O | N | I | A | ■ | R | E | A | P | ■ | N | E | L | L |
| S | T | I | N | G | ■ | N | O | G | S | ■ | G | L | E | E |

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8/17/06

## HOROSCOPE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're certainly memorable! Your penchant for drama is well-known. You can be powerfully explosive and colorful. Ironically, you are quite low-key in your personal life. You're a natural boss. Whatever you do, it's important to express your creative talent in your work. People look to you for direction. The year ahead promises loving, fun social times.

**Birthdate of:** Donnie Wahlberg, actor; Sean Penn, actor; Robert De Niro, actor.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** The unexpected might happen today. Be careful. It's a mildly accident-prone day. However, it's also a pretty good day for making long-range plans, especially those related to the arts, romance and working with children.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** Be careful with finances today. You might find money; you might lose money. Anything could happen. Use caution with impulse buying. If you do shop, buy something practical that will last a long time.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** The Moon is in your sign today. Parents and bosses could throw you a curveball. Be patient with them. However, it's a good day to do boring, routine work. (You'll get a lot done.)

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** This is a pretty good day to make long-range plans that concern money, finances and your possessions. However, travel plans and matters connected with publishing and education are unpredictable.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** People might squabble about shared possessions today. Don't even go there. However, someone older or wiser has some good advice for you. Be open to this.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** A boss, parent or authority figure or someone who is more experienced than you can help you today. Ironically, partners and friends are not that easy. Just smile and be patient.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** This is a good day to make long-range plans connected with travel or for dealing with foreign countries. This also applies to publishing and education.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Romance is a bit dicey today. Party plans and entertaining diversions might be canceled. This happens in the best of relationships. It's sort of a grin-and-bear-it moment. (Sigh.)

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** You definitely need extra patience when talking to family members and partners today. Unpredictable events make people impatient and edgy. Just smile and go with the flow.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** This is a good day for routine work and doing anything that requires attention to detail. Unfortunately, technology might blow up!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Be careful that you don't spend too much money having fun today. Parents must be vigilant with children because this is an accident-prone day.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Whatever work you do today will have a long-term benefit in a practical way. Nevertheless, be patient with parents and family members. Caution against minor accidents and breakage at home.

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku**

by Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | | | | 2 | | 8 | |
| 3 | | | | | | 1 | | 7 |
| | | 4 | | | 9 | | 2 | |
| | | | | | 4 | 6 | | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | 7 | 5 | | | | | |
| | 3 | | 8 | | | 4 | | |
| 7 | | 9 | | | | | | 8 |
| | 6 | | 3 | | | | 9 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/17

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**HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU**

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

**Answer to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 |
| 4 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| 1 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

# ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer ent name/age/city/message
to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

"THAILAND"

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

"CELL-BLOCK Tango"

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

"KOREA"

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

# *Keep 'Cell Block,' add 'Saigon'*

THAT'S WHAT CLUB MWAH HAS done to its staple revue, "Bedazzled," now in its sixth incarnation and still mesmerizing.

"Cell Block Tango" has been a big crowd favorite from the start," explains Pochollo Malillin, general manager. "For the same reason, we also kept the "Sarah Brightman" number by our star comic, Chaka."

The costumes, designed by Malillin's partner Cris Nicolas, have gotten better still, whether for the prim "Korea" or the flamboyant "Africa" (watch out for the ostriches). But "Thailand" takes the cake for the participants' golden gear and the very creative set (it's danced to a Madonna song, too).

Nicolas and Malillin are proudest of "Miss Saigon," for which a "chopper" descends onstage, to the delight of club regulars and new clients.

## Kuh at Captain's Bar

On Aug. 18 and 25, Kuh Ledesma performs some of the most memorable songs of years past at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Manila in "Come Rain, Come Shine."

For the two-night show, Kuh infuses a hint of jazz into her repertoire that includes staples from Sara Vaughn, Ella Fitzgerald, Barbra Streisand and Michel Legrand.

Special guests are Mon David and Kuh's daughter Isabella. Call 721-0635, 891-9999 or 551-7253.

## SHOW TIME

### Tonight

**Compose Band** with **Retrospect** at Mugen Bar

**The Greatest and the Latest Tribute Concert: Romance and Dance** at **Captain's Bar**, Mandarin Oriental featuring **RJ** and **Christian Bautista**

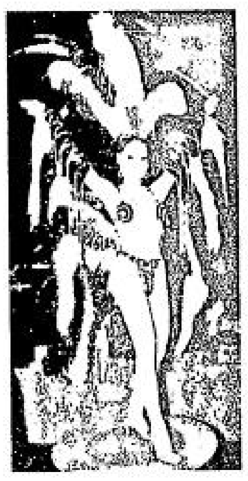
### Tomorrow

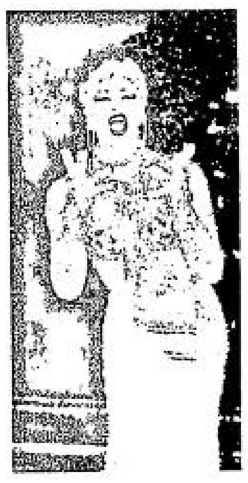
Rockestra 11 featuring the **Manila Symphony Orchestra** with **The Dawn, Hale, 6Cyclemind, Itchyworms, Urbandub** and **Up Dharma Down** at the **Folk Arts Theater**, 8 p.m.

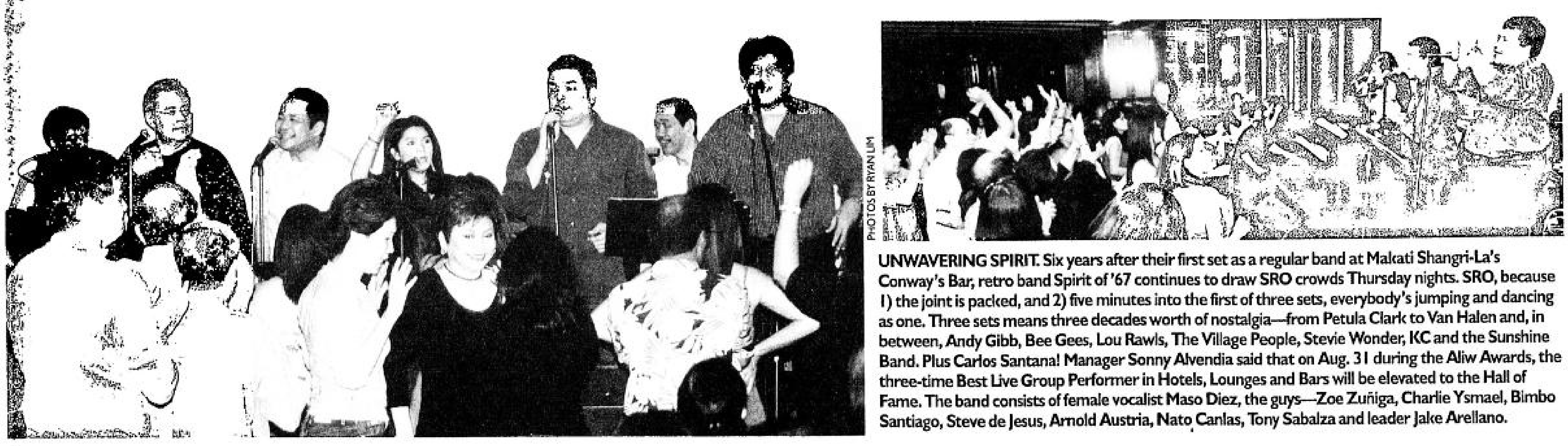
**Hush Band** with **Highlights** at **Mugen Bar**

**RJ and Friends** with **Moonstrucks** at **RJTV Bar**, Paseo de Roxas Bel-Air III

POCHOLO Malillin







PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM

**UNWAVERING SPIRIT.** Six years after their first set as a regular band at Makati Shangri-La's Conway's Bar, retro band Spirit of '67 continues to draw SRO crowds Thursday nights. SRO, because 1) the joint is packed, and 2) five minutes into the first of three sets, everybody's jumping and dancing as one. Three sets means three decades worth of nostalgia—from Petula Clark to Van Halen and, in between, Andy Gibb, Bee Gees, Lou Rawls, The Village People, Stevie Wonder, KC and the Sunshine Band. Plus Carlos Santana! Manager Sonny Alvendia said that on Aug. 31 during the Aliw Awards, the three-time Best Live Group Performer in Hotels, Lounges and Bars will be elevated to the Hall of Fame. The band consists of female vocalist Maso Diez, the guys—Zoe Zuñiga, Charlie Ysmael, Bimbo Santiago, Steve de Jesus, Arnold Austria, Nato Canlas, Tony Sabalza and leader Jake Arellano.

# Entertainment and politics make a potent brew in new pop-culture satire

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

IN THE UNITED STATES, "American Idol" has established itself as the most popular show on TV. The singing tilt annually draws tens of thousands of singing star wannabes, from which only 12 are selected to compete for the top prize, with all the fame and fortune that comes with it.

Aside from being a star-making talent competition, however, "AI" inadvertently showcases the American televiewing nation's fascination with "overnight" celebrity and "instant" fame, an increasingly pervasive fetish that slap-happily distracts viewers from much more pressing issues and concerns at hand.

Spinning off on this tantalizing topic, film satirist **Paul Weitz** ("American Pie," "About a Boy," "In Good Company") has upped the satirical ante even more with his latest film, "American Dreamz," an unabashed take-off on the hit TV show.

The film takes aim at so many interesting targets that it could end up being a blockbuster in its own right. Its most potent gambit is to link entertainment and politics, by having the president of the United States agree to serve as a special guest judge in the TV tilt's grand finals.

Hinting that nothing good will come out of this decision, the movie includes among the TV competition's finalists—a would-be terrorist!

It doesn't take a CIA operative's brain for us to figure out that the singing terrorist could be tasked to detonate a bomb at the finals that will pulverize everyone in sight, including the US president—at the same time striking a blow at hedonistic American pop-culture.

That final objective could be the movie's own as well. Weitz shares, "I was interested in making a film about a core aspect of the American identity, the idea that we are all supposed to have a dream—we're supposed to want something better that what we actually have. So, I wrote this utterly insane comedy about how this 'great dream' and the quest for it can actually drive our country crazy."

As his previous movies indicate, Weitz has long been curious about the roots of quirky human behavior and its comic potential.

"But," as the filmmaker puts it, "the often bizarre social and political climate of the past few years has left us pondering an even more arresting theme: The shifting nature of 'reality' viewed as entertainment, while 'real' reality threatens to erode into chaos! Part of the inspiration for this film was my fascination with pop culture and 'American Idol'—the juxtaposition of being interested and even obsessed with the show, while world events become more crazy."

Thoughtful Filipino TV-film viewers will have a lot to react to and empathize with in "American Dreamz," because they're very familiar with the bizarre ways that local entertainment has helped "idioticize" its audience with its shallow, hollow dilution and diminution of pressing societal concerns and problems, in the lame name of fun, frolic and breezy escapism. So, "American Dreamz" should have a lot to say to us, too.

Just in case the movie's satiric thematic focus isn't enough to interest viewers, the production's star value is an even more potent draw: The show's host is played by **Hugh Grant**; a bright, young hopeful is portrayed by **Mandy Moore**; **Dennis Quaid** is the US president; **Marcia Gay Harden** is his first lady; and other choice roles are played by **Chris Klein, Willem Dafoe, Jennifer Coolidge** and **Seth Meyers.** And so, to dream (zzz)...

## 'The Departed'

Martin Scorsese directs **Leonardo DiCaprio** and **Matt Damon** in "The Departed," an action-thriller about Irish-American mobsters and the cops who are their nemeses.

Undercover cop Billy Costigen (DiCaprio) is assigned to infiltrate the mob syndicate run by gangland chief Costello (**Jack Nicholson**). While Billy is gaining Costello's confidence, Colin Sullivan (Damon), a hardened young criminal who has in turn infiltrated the police department as an informer for the syndicate, is rising to a position of power in the Special Investigation Unit.